North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter

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Table of Contents

News

3 HSUS Crosses the Line

8 Targeted guinea pig farm closes

10 Animal rights and wrongs: The campaign against the Newchurch guinea pig farm may have shocked, but Nelson Mandela would understand it

12 Doctors Sue Merck Over Vioxx Animal Tests

13 Dictatorship of the drug industry: Drug Companies and Government Conspire to Evade Vivisection Regulations

16 Call For An End To Testing On Animals

17 Greens Call For A Real Alternative To Vivisection

18 Britain Bans American Professor Who Speaks on Behalf of Animal Liberation Front

19 Exclusion Or Deportation From The UK On Non-Conducive Grounds: Consultation Document

Featured Articles

21 How Like Us Need They Be?

33 Benefits of animal experiments no longer exist

35 Disease Mongering

39 Appreciate animal-rights restraint

40 The High Price of Animal Experimentation

This month's newsletter features a long overdue critique of HSUS, which continues to demonstrate divisive and unscrupulous behavior in its attack on the direct action movement. HSUS has regularly condemned tough tactics that have been proven to work for animals, but this time they crossed a line.

In addition, this issue notes the recent important victory of activists over Darley Oaks guinea pig breeding farm. After a six year long campaign against the Hall family for its exploitation of guinea pigs, the breeders finally threw in the towel, thereby becoming the latest in a long string of victories - including Consort Kennels, Hillgrove Cat Farm, Shamrock Monkey Farm, and Regal Rabbits - animal liberations have won against those who supply animals to the vivisection industry. This victory has considerably emboldened the animal liberation movement in England, as it alarms scientists who call for still tougher laws against activists. Slowly but surely, the UK is becoming a fascist police state, as is evident in the recent ban of Dr. Steven Best and creation of new "exclusion bill" (see the link in this issue). The media coverage of the victory over Darley Oaks has been overwhelmingly negative, casting animal rights activists as warped criminals and terrorists, and betraying a complete lack of objectivity or fairness in its Star Magazine tabloid-style "journalism." But the struggle against Darley Oaks takes on a completely different meaning if one bothers to ask about the treatment of thousands of guinea pigs exploited and murdered in UK vivisection labs, and the UK government's collusion with the vivisection industry. Together, the corporate-state vivisection complex in the UK blocks any meaningful legal avenue of change, such that activists have no recourse but to use tactics of sabotage and force. Amidst great struggle and turmoil in England, the only certain thing is that corporations and the state on one side and animal liberationists on the other, are squaring up for a monumental battle over animal rights that will only become more intense.

HSUS Crosses the Line

The animal advocacy movement is richly diverse, and encompasses three major tendencies: animal welfare, animal rights, and animal liberation. Where all animal welfare and most animal rights groups insist on working within the legal boundaries of society, animal liberationists argue that the state is irrevocably corrupt and that legal approaches alone will never win justice for the animals.

Whereas animal liberationists have always urged a pluralist approach and shown appreciation for all tactics including welfare, the converse, unfortunately, has not been the case. Numerous welfare and rights groups have criticized the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) for actions they think hurt the image of animal advocacy and alienate potential sympathizers. In these criticisms, they display an appalling ignorance of the history and effectiveness of ALF actions. Through sabotage and raids, ALF actions have:

• Saved thousands of animals from a horrible fate and found them loving homes

• Freed thousands more to live out the rest of their lives in the wild

• Shut down egregious fur farms and laboratories

• Financially weakened countless exploiters

• Provided valuable video documentation of extreme animal cruelty, much of it done in the name of “science” that espouses “animal welfare” values

Many mainstream organizations have pulled out of conferences pluralistic enough to include direct action speakers. Such divisive actions have less to do with principle than with the economic demands of membership support and fear of being tainted by McCarthyesque tactics that assign guilt through association. The more an organization has to lose, the more it strives to separate itself from militant aspects of the movement. For the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a small empire is at stake.

HSUS has become more vocal in its criticism of the ALF and direct action tactics in general in a post-9/11 context where dissent of any kind is branded as “domestic terrorism” and animal exploitation industries have gained increasing influence in the state. Spearheaded by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a pernicious and powerful corporate lobbying group, 14 states have introduced new “Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act” laws designed to thwart activism against “animal enterprises” and “natural resource” industries. Such bills have already passed in Oklahoma, California, Utah, and Colorado. Like the Patriot Act, the language in these bills is so broad and sweeping that even leafleting against industries can be branded as a terrorist action. Among other things, these new laws increase penalties for trespassing and vandalism, outlaw unauthorized filming of industry operations, ban donations to organizations deemed “ecoterrorist,” and mandate that individuals convicted of such “crimes” have their personal information and photograph posted to a public Internet base.

In our current neo-McCarthyesque era, all forms of dissent are under attack, nowhere more so than in the animal rights movement. Legal forms of protest increasingly are subject to restriction and repression, as evident in the arrest of the “SHAC7,” activists who have been charged with violations of the 1992 Animal Enterprise Protection Act. In June 2005, reminiscent of the 1950s HUAC hearings, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee convened a special meeting against animal rights “terrorism” and their real target clearly was not only the ALF, but also mainstream groups such as PETA and indeed, HSUS.

In such conditions, a fork has opened in the road to the future, and organizations must take one of two roads: the path of self-interest and self-preservation, or the path of movement solidarity. It is unfortunate that the largest animal advocacy group in the country, the Humane Society of the United States, has chosen the path of self-preservation and self-promotion at the expense of movement unity and political principles.

In recent years, HSUS has expressed increasingly open and vocal criticism of direct action and groups such as the ALF. Yet in a recent Newsday article (August 7, 2005), entitled “Feds turn up the heat on `ecoterrorists,’” HSUS crossed a line by demonstrating far more solidarity with the police state undermining animal rights activism than with the animal cause itself. Denouncing the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the ALF, Michael Markarian, Executive Vice President of External Affairs for HSUS, stated: "We applaud the FBI and law enforcement authorities for trying to crack down and root out these criminals, but we don't think we need a new law."

Fully aware of the unreliability of media sources, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office contacted Mr. Markarian to confirm that he was accurately quoted. He replied to us with this message:

Thanks for your email. You are correct that people are often misquoted in the press, and I do appreciate your taking the time to check with me.

In this case, my quote was accurate. The reporter asked me specifically about arson, and I told her in no uncertain terms that the HSUS opposes such actions and we believe that law enforcement agencies have a duty to stop people from engaging in this conduct, no matter what cause they claim to represent. As you know, the HSUS has no quarrel with peaceful civil disobedience, but we have been very vocal in opposing activities such as property destruction, threats of violence, harassment, and arson in the name of animal protection. We ask people to adhere to a code of conduct in how they treat animals, and we should be prepared to adhere to a civil code of conduct ourselves.

We have a tough enough challenge in asking people to accept the idea that animals should be included in our moral calculus. It increases our degree of difficulty when our movement asks people to accept illegal tactics. Finally, I'll add that I believe these actions hand a major strategic opportunity to our opponents. We cede the moral high ground to vivisectors, factory farmers, and others when we resort to these tactics. If people in our movement didn't engage in these tactics, it would not be surprising to have agent provocateurs conduct similar actions, as a means of undermining the credibility of the organizations and leaders of the movement.

Opposing ALEC and the Senate, HSUS is trying to get the feds off their back, but only to turn them loose on others, as they “applaud” the actions of the police state and cheer the good guys in the “war on terrorism.” What they don’t acknowledge is the important victories for animals achieved through illegal direct action. What they don’t see is that they need the “radicals” and “extremists” as a foil in order to position themselves as “mainstream” and “respectable.” What they don’t grasp is that what happens to any one aspect of the movement happens to all of it, and that once the corporate-state complex goes after the underground, they same machinery will grind away at the aboveground – at least if they begin to grow effective to any degree in protecting animals from the brutality and barbarities of animal exploiters.

In late August 2005, NAALPO solicited a response to the views of HSUS from Kevin Jonas. Kevin is the founder of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) movement in the United States, a prominent spokesperson for direct action tactics, and someone who has been shoved around more than a bit by law enforcement agencies and officials. Here is Kevin’s reply:

It has always been my policy that it’s not a good idea to air the movement's dirty laundry in public. Disputes, dramas, and squabbles should be reconciled internally and not enjoyed by our opposition and exploited as a divide-and-conquer tactic of the FBI. To this end I have tasted blood on more than one occasion from biting my tongue in response to the cheap and slanderous comments made to the mainstream press by those supposed allies in this social justice struggle.

Believe me, I get it. I understand that the more "reputable" national welfare organizations feel they must keep their distance from the "radical" efforts. Their pursuits are policy and potlucks in hopes to set not only a legislative agenda, but also in attempting a more compassionate culture. In a post 9-11, security crazed, constitutionally-challenged time where animal-abusive industry

lobbyists have adopted the Karl Rove playbook in attack ads, it can almost be forgivable that such large right-of-center mainstream organizations would insulate themselves from the organically grown, uncontrollable, nothing-to-lose, all-volunteer grassroots movement. Whether or not this distancing is a good idea or even if the aims and objectives of such organizations are worthy of the tremendous resources devoted to them is another whole debate.

What's changed though is that it is not just distance these monolithic organizations are hoping to create, but tactical hegemony. By organizing boycotts of what were national movement conferences, by forbidding their many hundreds of employees from even attending certain demonstrations, by slandering the grassroots efforts to their few donors, and by condemning their actions in the press they seek to help the corporate state redefine what are acceptable forms of activism.

As if those fighting for animals didn't already have enough enemies, these actions pick a fight amongst colleagues and divide the movement, striking a lethal blow to solidarity. Organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States have begun parroting the 8th grade rhetoric of George W. Bush with insinuations that you are with them (their politics of the polite) or you are against them (you think and act independently from their party-line approach). HSUS's acquisition of smaller organizations and corporate mergers with other large national groups speaks to this attempt at hegemony and the triumph of a welfarist agenda at the expense of a rights/liberation position.

Still, the actions of the factory farms and vivisection labs are far more egregious and warrant all of the precious little time we have to challenge them. This remains true to this day and always will, but recent statements made by HSUS have given me pause for concern as to where their allegiances truly lie. When on August 7th, 2005 HSUS Vice President Mike Markarian told the New York's Newsday that "We applaud the FBI and law enforcement for trying to crack down and root out these criminals," this was both politically distasteful and very, very personally troubling.

The "criminals" Markarian is referring to are the unknown number of courageous activists who are risking their lives and liberty to free tortured animals and damage the mechanics that cause their suffering. These are the same sort of “criminals” that gave this modern movement it’s foundation in the 1980s with the liberation of “Britches” and numerous other animals at Silver Spring, Maryland, the “City of Hope” hellhole in Los Angeles, and so on.’ These "criminals" also include activists like myself and six others who are to stand trial in 2006 -- not for taking anything, breaking anything, or even trespassing, but simply for having the goal of shutting down Huntingdon Life Science, a notorious animal-testing lab. In the current political culture, this objective is classified as a disruption and a federal offense under the never-before- tried “Animal Enterprise Protection Act.”

In the eyes of HSUS I am criminal because I am young, passionate, take risks, and am unabashed in my criticism of those would ever dare raise a scalpel to the throat of a beagle puppy. I am a proud animal rights activist and apparently do not belong to the same movement HSUS is seeking to homogenize.

When Markarian and HSUS applauded the FBI, they took the right to disagreement a step too far. They are applauding the agency that drew four pistols on my dog and threatened to kill him, the agency that spent six months listening to my most personal and intimate phone conversations with family and friends, the agency that threatened to subpoena my dying

grandfather to a grand jury investigating his grandson, the agency that ransacked my home and stole everything from CD collections to family photo albums. They are cheerleading the agency that is today trying to send me to jail for 23 years for only my speech-related activity with a legal protest campaign.

When Markarian and HSUS clap for the FBI, they are supporting the same agency that tried to ruin Martin Luther King Jr., which framed and even murdered prominent anti-war activists of the 70's, and that covered up the car bombing of prominent environmental activist Judy Bari. HSUS is standing behind a government force that is trying to do the same to the animal protection movement as it has tried (and succeeded) to do to virtually every other social justice struggle in recent US history.

It is a new level of naiveté and treachery that we can find allies amongst the army of the oppressor. It is a position that does meet the test of history or ethics. It is a position of inconsistence as HSUS does not support direct action for animals because it is illegal and considered violent by some, while applauding the FBI which has a long and documented history of criminal fraud and murder. It is a position almost as incredulous as its belief that we as movement can tackle the world's single greatest oppression and prejudice (the violent exploitation of
animals) by simply being polite and patient where no other human-issued social justice struggle has ever succeeded using such tepid tactics.

I am tired of biting my tongue. If anyone is to be indignant in this argument it should be the volunteers of the passionate grassroots. I don't want to be quiet anymore while executives at HSUS, who take six-figure salaries and some even still eat the animals we are fighting for, condemn the risk-takers and courageous few that gave this movement is birth and its continued hope. This is a debate and dialogue that needs to take place, but sadly you will only find one side willing to sit at the table of reconciliation. HSUS and others like them seek to silence this voice of dissent and retreat behind the same tired platitudes used by animal abusers evading confrontation.

We, as humans, are quarrelsome animals and are never going to agree on everything, but certain common ground and respect can be reached if we can stop the vilification. As a start this is the challenge I give to Mike Markarian, Wayne Pacelle, and all those who represent HSUS: the next time you have the opportunity to comment on militant direct action tactics in a news publication, cast as criminals those lab employees or feedlot operators against those whom we are united in opposition, and spare those who support the tough tactics this movement needs to achieve its goals.

If HSUS is right that through education and legislation alone this movement can win justice for animals (or really, according to their stated goals, improve the welfare of the animal slaves), then why are more animals being tortured to death today than 20 years ago? Why is the movement barely able to do anything more than increase the size of the cages and bring about "humane slaughter"? Why is the movement helping corporations to polish their public image and mitigate consumer guilt over eating murdered animals?

There are lessons to be learned from the recent history of the environmental movement. As Mark Dowie describes in his book Losing Ground, the big mainstream US environmental groups that emerged in the 1970s – the so-called "Gang of Ten" – clamored for respectability and political influence as they sold-out, compromised, pandered to power, even thwarted grass-roots

radicals, while growing into bloated bureaucracies that craved MBA students more than acute activists. The same pattern and dynamics has emerged in the animal advocacy movement, and it is a worrying trend.

But just as in 1977 Paul Watson broke with the conservativism of Greenpeace to create the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and confront the bastards who kill animals with impunity on the high seas, just as in 1980 the founders of Earth First! renounced the futility of environmental mainstream tactics and organizational corruption in order to spawn an important militant direct action approach, and just as the Earth Liberation Front emerged in the 1990s to take the defense of the earth to the next level, so there will always be militant animal rights/liberation tactics emerging in appropriate response to the increasing enormity of animal suffering that is tragically paralleled by the ineffectiveness of mainstream approaches.

Opposition to direct action is the last frontier of speciesism. The ALF, SHAC, and other direct action groups are taking the tough tactics necessary to help animals and they are effective where other approaches fail. Ask any animal “advocate” who opposes the use of high pressure tactics, illegal actions, and sabotage to free animals if they also oppose the use of sabotage and even violence to free human beings in past wars of independence and liberation, and you will find the contradiction that betrays latent speciesist views that animals do not merit liberation “by any means necessary.”

This broad animal advocacy movement needs each and every tactic that helps animals in an effective way. It is time to turn the tables on mainstream criticism of direct action, however, and ask instead whether it is not in fact mainstream approaches that do more harm than good, as they cozy up with corporations, defend the murderous and violent nature of the police state, and trumpet the message that exploiting animals is acceptable if so long as you do it “humanely.”

We’re in this fight for animals together. The underground and direct action movement doesn’t expect solidarity from aboveground and mainstream groups like HSUS, but it does hope at the very least that the noble and uncompromising cause of abolitionism will not be vilified and betrayed by those courting favor with corporations and the state.

Targeted guinea pig farm closes

A farm that has been breeding guinea pigs for medical research for more than 30 years is to stop after intimidation by animal rights activists.

The family-run Darley Oaks Farm in Newchurch, Staffordshire, has been hit by a six-year campaign of abuse.

The owners and people connected with the firm have received death threats.

The family said they hoped the decision would prompt the return of the body of their relative Gladys Hammond, whose remains were stolen from a churchyard.

I just feel so angry that these animal rights activists have won-- Rod Harvey, former farm supplier

The remains were taken from her grave in nearby Yoxall in October.

Mrs Hammond, who was buried in St Peter's churchyard seven years ago, was the mother-in-law of Christopher Hall, part-owner of the farm.

In a statement, a close relative of Mrs Hammond, who declined to be named, said there was now no reason why her body could not be returned.

"Gladys was a relative of the Halls by marriage only and had no involvement in guinea pig breeding.

"She was a kind, gentle country lady who loved animals. She was also friendly, generous and loving and always put her family first."

'Fantastic day'

The Hall family have been subjected to hate mail, malicious phone calls, hoax bombs and arson attacks.

A spokeswoman for David Hall and Partners confirmed that the business, where several thousand guinea pigs are reared, was to stop breeding animals for medical research.

The Hall family is now expected to concentrate on the arable side of the business.

Campaigners who have legitimately picketed the farm over recent years said they would continue their protest until the guinea pig breeding operation officially closed at the end of the year.

Johnny Holmes, a spokesman for Stop the Newchurch Guinea Pigs, said: "This is the most fantastic day of my life.

"It's a victory for the animals and it's a fundamental victory for the animal rights movement.

"Ideally, I wish they would close down today and hand them over. We want those guinea pigs out."

In a statement, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) expressed its best wishes to the family and said their decision was "regrettable but understandable".

Director of the ABPI Philip Wright said guinea pigs had been essential in research into respiratory disease resulting in breakthroughs in the development of new medicines.

'Not a victory'

"The activities of a few animal rights extremists have placed impossible pressure on those going about their legitimate business," he said.

"While animal rights extremists are likely to be only one factor in the final decision, it does

underline the need for greater protection of those individuals and companies targeted."

David Bird, from Staffordshire Police, told BBC Radio 4 it had been impossible to give complete protection because the campaign had been so widespread.

"We have had some success in dealing with those responsible. What I would say is that this closure is not a victory for anybody," he said.

"This campaign has done absolutely nothing to further the cause of animal rights."

Rod Harvey supplied fuel to the farm and endured four years of abuse from activists before he was forced to cease trading with the Halls.

The 63-year-old businessman said he received threatening letters, including one accusing him of being a paedophile which was then sent to a number of people he knew.

"In December 2003 a brick came through the window of my front door, hitting my foot and cutting my hand," he said.

"In view of what they (the Hall family) and their staff have had to put up with I'm not surprised that they have stopped breeding guinea pigs.

"I just feel so angry that these animal rights activists have won."

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/staffordshire/4176094.stm

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Animal rights and wrongs: The campaign against the Newchurch guinea pig farm may have shocked, but Nelson Mandela would understand it

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Adam Nicolson
Wednesday August 24, 2005

Guardian

No one, I think, would put the attempt to liberate the Newchurch guinea pigs on a par with the anti-apartheid campaign in South Africa. A few thousand - or even a few tens of thousands - of furry laboratory animals is not on the same scale as an entire repressed nation. But perhaps the two struggles are not as far apart as you think.

The Hall family's decision to close down their guinea-pigs-for-laboratories enterprise, and return

to more traditional farming, is a result of terrorism. The family, and almost everyone they know, have been the target of sabotage, bomb hoaxes, hate mail, a paedophile smear campaign, malicious phone calls and arson attacks. Most appallingly, the body of Gladys Hammond, a Hall family relative, was dug up and her bones kidnapped. Electricity pylons have been blown up. There have been demos outside the farm every Sunday and Wednesday for the past five years.

All of these are clearly forms of terror, delivered by people who have thought, and probably rightly, that their campaign for the better treatment of the guinea pigs would not get anywhere if they used more polite, or less violent methods. The science and government establishments have been set against them and, to stay true to their ideals, they have had no alternative.

We all hate terrorists, but as a side-light on this nasty and bitter corner of modern life, it is interesting to read what Nelson Mandela, at his trial for violence and sabotage in October 1963, had to say about those crimes. This was the trial at which he was convicted and sent to Robben Island for life. He admitted quite freely that he was guilty of what he was accused of. "I do not deny that I planned sabotage," he told the court. "I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the political situation. Without violence there would be no way open to the African people to succeed in their struggle."

As a small armed wing of the ANC, Mandela had formed Umkhonto we Sizwe, meaning Spear of the Nation, because without such a channel, any violence would have been chaotic and far more destructive. The leaders of the ANC felt they had no other option. Mandela quoted Chief Lutuli, who had led the ANC in the 1950s: "Who will deny that 30 years of my life have been spent knocking in vain, patiently, moderately and modestly at a closed and barred door? What have been the fruits of moderation? The past 30 years have seen the greatest number of laws restricting our rights and progress, until today we have reached a stage where we have almost no rights at all."

It is largely forgotten now but Mandela received guerrilla training in Algeria. The notes he made from the lectures he attended there were produced in court. He studied Clausewitz, Mao Zedong and Che Guevara. He prepared himself, quite cold-headedly, as he told the court, for "guerrilla warfare. I wanted to be able to stand and fight with my people to share the hazards of war with them." It never came to that because he was caught and imprisoned before he could take up arms. The sabotage of government buildings and electricity pylons and setting up the training regimes for recruits was all he was responsible for.

There is, in this comparison, a problem of scale and, to be honest, of seriousness, but there is not a deep or very real distinction in principle. Mandela's term for his control of Umkhonto we Sizwe was "properly controlled violence". Seen simply in tactical and strategic terms, that phrase would be perfectly appropriate for the things that animal rights activists have been doing to the Halls, their friends, families, employees and neighbours. Digging up the body of Gladys Hammond - deeply shocking as it is - is nevertheless a very precisely calibrated act of terror. Not in moral but in these tactical terms, you could see it as a form of "properly controlled violence".

It may be in the future that the use of large numbers of animals to test drugs, for which the motivation is often commercial, not humanitarian, will come to seem outrageous and that the treatment of animals in our society will be thought of as one of our great blindspots. (Nothing

new there: ducks in Tudor England had their feet nailed to the floor so that their flesh would not be coarsened by exercise.) If that does happen, then the campaign to close down the guinea pig sheds at Darley Oaks Farm will surely look like a violent, necessary and ugly step on the long march to freedom.

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Doctors Sue Merck Over Vioxx Animal Tests

Merck Relied on Animal Experiments Showing Vioxx
to Be "Safe," While Ignoring Critical Human Data

WASHINGTON—In a lawsuit filed this week, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) alleges that Merck & Co. wrongfully relied on tests showing Vioxx was safe in animals while ignoring mounting evidence that the drug is dangerous to humans. Vioxx, a best-selling painkiller, was pulled off the market last fall, after the APPROVE clinical trial showed cardiac risk to humans. This is believed to be the first time a U.S. pharmaceutical company has been sued specifically for relying on animal tests.

“Merck endangered public health by relying on inapplicable animal tests rather than relevant and available human data,” says Dan Kinburn, PCRM associate general counsel. The injured plaintiff, Nancy Tufford, a PCRM member from Minnesota, is seeking $1 million in damages because she developed congestive heart failure while taking Vioxx.

The lawsuit charges that Merck was well aware of the limitations of animal testing—that animal studies are often inconsistent, species-dependent, and not useful in predicting drug safety or efficacy in humans. At least nine of 11 mice and rat studies, for example, showed COX-2 drugs to be beneficial for animal hearts. The suit accuses Merck of using these and other inapplicable animal data to justify keeping Vioxx on the market. It also states that Merck knew of more effective safety assessment methods, such as postmarket surveillance of patient reactions, in vitro tests using human cells and tissues, and computer modeling, but failed to employ these methods.

At a news conference held in Washington, D.C., today, Dallas-based cardiologist and PCRM consultant John J. Pippin, M.D., F.A.C.C., shared the results of his research into the Vioxx tragedy, including a new “smoking gun.” Dr. Pippin presented data from an unpublished study on African green monkeys that Merck used as additional evidence of Vioxx’s supposed safety.

“Animal tests clearly show Vioxx to be safe, but these tests simply do not apply to humans,” Dr. Pippin said. “Merck was wrong to rely on data from mice, rats, and African green monkeys when faced with compelling evidence that human patients are at risk,” says Dr. Pippin. “Ultimately, Merck’s reliance on scientifically flawed animal tests led to human injury and death.”

Muhammad Mamdani, PharmD, M.A., M.P.H., senior scientist and leader of the Drug Research Group at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto, Ontario, also participated in the news conference. Dr. Mamdani, the lead author of a recent human-based study in The

Lancet that links Vioxx to congestive heart failure, has stated that studies with mice and monkeys are not always predictive of a drug's effect in human patients.

Founded in 1985, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine is a nonprofit health organization that promotes preventive medicine, especially good nutrition. PCRM also conducts clinical research studies, opposes unethical human experimentation, and promotes alternatives to animal research.

Dictatorship of the drug industry: Drug Companies and Government Conspire to Evade Vivisection Regulations

Democracy, as most of us would understand it, means Government by the people.

The Electorate votes for parties on the basis of the policies they say they will implement, such as the animal research policies that Labour promised [copies of these available from Uncaged]. In a democratic society, those promised policies that the public has endorsed through its choice of a governing party are then implemented.

This is the essential core of democracy - Government represents the will of the people.

Question: What happens when democracy conflicts with the interests of the pharmaceutical industry?

Answer: Pharmaceutical corporation executives demand an audience with the Prime Minister, where they tell him that democratic Government policy doesn't suit them, and they want him to investigate how Government can implement their demands to maximise their profits. The following paragraphs are excerpted by the report of the resulting joint Government/Big Pharma 'Task Force', published on 28 March 2001:

"1.1 The Pharmaceutical Industry Competitiveness Task Force (PICTF) was set up following a meeting in November 1999 between the Prime Minister and the CEOs of Astra Zeneca, Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham.

4.1 PICTF met for the first time on 13 April 2000 and drew its initial business to a close on 1 March 2001. The terms of reference focused on:

'The Pharmaceutical Industry Competitiveness Task Force will bring together the expertise and experience of the industry leaders in the UK with Government policy makers to identify and report to the Prime Minister on the steps that may need to be taken to retain and strengthen the competitiveness of the UK business environment for the innovative pharmaceutical industry.'

9.6 On Animal Welfare and Research, it was agreed that the increasing complexity of the regulatory process involved in obtaining licences to carry out animal studies... and the possible implications of the new Freedom of Information Act, have meant that the UK is increasingly perceived by industry as an unfavourable environment in which to conduct research involving animals...

9.7 The Task Force agreed substantial actions to streamline licensing procedures..."

(From Executive Summary, Pharmaceutical Industry Competitiveness Task Force, Final Report - March 2001 (jointly published by the Government and the ABPI) (www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/pictf/pictf.pdf)

Lord Sainsbury chaired the working group that discussed how to weaken vivisection regulations (Section V - Science Base and Biopharmaceuticals). Just one of the astonishing things about this clique of industrialists and politicians is that it has made unilateral decisions on areas of policy that are the responsibility of other bodies such as the Home Office and the Animal Procedures Committee. Despite the implications for animal experiments, animal protection groups were systematically excluded from even participating in these discussions. It is this Task Force, and the working group chaired by Lord Sainsbury, which is responsible for subverting Government policy on animal experimentation.

Rubber-stamping

Throughout the PICTF discussion of animal experimentation regulation, it is presumed that the regulatory framework is nothing more than a process for simply granting licences rather than a process that actually scrutinises whether licences should be granted or not, as the law stipulates. Thus both the drug industry and the Government have inadvertently confirmed what anti-vivisectionists have been saying for years: the laws are systematically ignored, and the regulatory process is a rubber-stamping process, rather than the stringent, objective or rigorous process the public is lead to believe.

The "increasing complexity" that the drug companies complain of refers to the Labour pledges and policies to:

1. "insist on the highest possible standards of animal welfare"
2. "ensure that they are only used when essential for medical and other scientific research purposes" [we dispute whether it is essential, but that is separate matter]
3. require all vivisection establishments to set up, by April 1999, Ethical Review Processes (ERPs) to monitor vivisection research proposals and practices.

Blocking progress

None of these measures address what we believe to be the fundamental moral and scientific imperative for the abolition of vivisection. But what they did represent was the potential for a gradual increase in the level of consideration given to the interests of animals when licences to vivisect were being considered. After all, the core element of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is the cost/benefit assessment (Section 5(4)), which requires the harms that animals will suffer from an experiment to be weighed against the supposed benefit that would accrue to humans from the research.
More animal suffering

The Report claims that "streamlining licencing procedures" will lead to improvements in animal welfare. This is dishonest propaganda which insults the intelligence of the reader: there is no attempt to explain quite how such improvements would be achieved. In fact, by railing against even the tiniest improvements in the regulation of animal experiments, the drug industry in

collaboration with the Government has:

1. undermined democracy by failing to ensure that pre-election promises were fulfilled
2. shown contempt for the rule of law by conniving to evade the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the crucial cost-benefit assessment
3. set the stage for more experiments of greater severity to be conducted on animals
4. tried to block the application of the Freedom of Information Act to animal experiments.

The PICTF also recommended that the ABPI should be consulted whenever any Government policy that might affect the interests of the drug industry, such as vivisection policy, was being considered - a so-called "no surprises" policy (para 9.7).

Another agreed action plan (no. 50, Appendix 1) was for the drug industry to see how it could dismantle animal welfare regulations blocking the establishment of "whole animal pharmacology course in the UK."

Tony Blair wrote the Foreword to the PICTF report (see above). He stated:

"A key feature in maintaining the UK's attractiveness as a location for investment will be effective partnership at the highest levels between Government and industry. That is why I am delighted at the work and outputs of the PICTF."

The unparalleled access to and influence over political power enjoyed by unelected, unaccountable drug company executives is a chilling example of how democracy is being destroyed by corporate power. The PICTF aimed to pervert policy in a number of important areas in addition to animal testing, such as the way in which the NHS buys drugs, the structure of education, clinical research, and the assessment of the safety and effectiveness of new drugs. Not only will animal testing policy be dictated by the drug industry, but health, education and economic policy are also formulated in the corporate interest rather than the public interest. We don't remember Labour promising that before the last election.

Membership of the PICTF

* **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**
  Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health
* **Tom McKillop**
  Astra Zeneca
* **Lord Sainsbury of Turville**
  Minister for Science and Innovation
* **Baroness Blackstone**
  Minister of State for Education and Employment
* **Nick Raynsford MP**
  Minister for Housing and Planning
* **Stephen Timms MP**
  Financial Secretary
* **Nigel Crisp**
  Permanent Secretary/Chief Executive Department of Health
* **Sir Richard Sykes**
  (then) Chairman of Glaxo Wellcome

* **J-P Garnier**
  (then) Chief Executive of SmithKline Beecham
* **Bill Fullagar**
  President of Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and Novartis UK,President
* **Vincent Lawton**
  American Pharmaceuticals Group and Merck Sharp & Dohme
* **Trevor Jones**
  ABPI Director-General

Source: p. 17 of PICTF report, and Department of Health Press Release 2001/0155, 28/3/01 "Prime Minister announces results of Pharmaceutical Industry Competitiveness Task Force - jointly published by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)"

Call For An End To Testing On Animals

Author: Nick Gibbens
24 Aug 2005

Leading animal protection organisations from around the globe have joined forces in a call for the use of non-human primates in medical research to come to an end.

The RSPCA, Humane Society for the United States, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, and the German Animal Welfare Society have signed a statement urging governments, regulators, industry, scientists, and those who fund research around the world to accept the need to end primate use.

The statement calls for an internationally coordinated strategy to replace all experiments on primates with humane alternatives.

"The use of primates in scientific research and testing is a matter of extreme concern to the animal protection community and to members of the public around the world," said Dr Maggy Jennings, head of the RSPCA's research animals department.

"Primates have an awareness of pain and suffering similar to humans and the potential for suffering can begin long before primates reach the laboratory.

"This statement sends a clear and forceful message to everyone involved in testing on primates that it must come to an end."

"Everyone involved in primate use is urged to accept that this is an essential goal and to start working together to replace primate experiments."

On Tuesday, a Staffordshire farm which breeds guinea pigs for medical research said it was to stop after intimidation by animal rights campaigners.

Today, 500 leading UK scientists and doctors signed a declaration pledging their support for animal testing in medical research.

The declaration, which was drawn up by the Research Defence Society (RDS), states that a "small, but vital" part of medical research involves animals.

In response to the statement, the RSPCA said: "The RDS declaration does not acknowledge the pain, suffering and distress that animal experiments cause, nor does it require any positive actions by the researchers who signed it."

"The RSPCA is very disappointed that the scientific community could not come up with a more proactive statement fifteen years after the original declaration."

Greens Call For A Real Alternative To Vivisection

Green Party Animal Rights Spokesperson Sue Baumgardt commented:

"Whilst we at the Green Party utterly condemn the use of violence in support of any cause, we share the protesters frustration and anger that despite clear evidence of the unreliability of animal testing and the availability of viable alternatives, the government continues to support animal testing." (1)

"The scientists who are attempting to represent animal testing as a "small but vital" area of medical research are being extremely selective with their facts."

"It must be remembered that whilst the media focus has been on the medical aspect of animal testing, a large share of vivisection in the UK is actually for products like industrial and household cleaners and even for areas such as germ warfare."

"The numbers of animals being used in experiments has been rising steadily every year since 2001. From 2002 to 2003 the increase was a disgraceful 60,000. Britain also experiments on more primates than any other European country " (2)

Many Greens still feel betrayed by the New Labour government who promised a Royal Commission into the ethics of vivisection whilst they

were in opposition and immediately abandoned the policy once in power.

"At this time we call for the government to keep its promise to the electorate and create a Commission to effectively analyse the alternatives to animal testing."

ENDS

Notes for editiors:

(1) http://www.mattek.com/?ga-atm
http://www.curedisease.net/index.shtml

(2) http://www.uncaged.co.uk/vivisect.htm
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4177200.stm
http://www.buav.org

* From Green Party press office, 020 7561 0282.
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Britain Bans American Professor Who Speaks on Behalf of Animal Liberation Front

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Monday, August 29, 2005

http://chronicle.com/daily/2005/08/2005082905n.htm

By SCOTT SMALLWOOD

A University of Texas at El Paso professor who supports the Animal Liberation Front has been banned from traveling to Britain because the government there says he is fomenting acts of terrorism in the country.

The professor, Steven Best, teaches philosophy and is one of the founders of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, which disseminates information about attacks on laboratories and farms by animal-rights activists. The Animal Liberation Front, which got its start in England in the 1970s, has been called one of the leading domestic terrorist threats by U.S. officials.

Mr. Best regularly travels to speak on animal rights. In July he spoke at the International Animal Rights Conference, in England. At that conference, he was quoted by a British newspaper as saying: "We are not terrorists, but we are a threat. We are a threat both economically and philosophically. Our power is not in the right to vote but the power to stop production. We will break the law and destroy property until we win."

According to the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, he also said activists do not want to "reform" vivisectionists. Rather, he said, "we want to wipe them off the face of the earth."

In a letter informing him of the ban, an official with the Home Office -- a British agency that is similar to the U.S. Justice Department -- cited those statements and others made by Mr. Best in the past. "In expressing such views," the letter said, "it is considered that you are fomenting and justifying terrorist violence and seeking to provoke others to terrorist acts and fomenting other serious criminal activity and seeking to provoke others to serious criminal acts."

The letter to Mr. Best is dated August 24, the same day the Home Office published a new list of behaviors that would lead to people's being barred from visiting the country. Under the list, people who write, speak, run a Web site, or use their positions as teachers to express views that "foment, justify, or glorify violence in furtherance of particular beliefs" will be kept out or deported. The British government described the list, which was announced about six weeks after the July 7 terrorist attacks in London, as part of "its ongoing work to tackle terrorism and extremism."

Mr. Best had planned on traveling to England again in September to speak at an event where animal-rights activists will celebrate the closure of a farm that breeds guinea pigs for medical research.

Mr. Best said he was not surprised by the ban. "It was only a matter of time, especially after July 7," he said. "The climate in Britain is totally unbelievable. It's very fascist. It's becoming a police state."

He said that he had argued with British officials that his statements at the conference this summer had been taken out of context. "I argued that I didn't mean anything violent," he said, "that we'll wipe these guys off the face of the earth through legal means, through boycotts."

British officials considered banning Mr. Best from the country in 2004, but relented after he wrote a letter saying that while he supported the Animal Liberation Front, he did not consider the group to be violent. At that time, Jerry Vlasak, another activist who founded the press office with Mr. Best, was banned from traveling to Britain.

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Exclusion Or Deportation From The UK On Non-Conducive Grounds: Consultation Document

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1. The Home Secretary has powers to exclude or deport non-UK citizens on the grounds that their presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good.
2. These powers apply both to those who are not yet in the UK (exclusions) and to those who have temporary or indefinite leave to remain in the UK (deportation).
3. The Home Secretary must and will act consistently, proportionately and reasonably in applying these powers, having regard to the importance

of upholding UK values.
4. Where the Home Secretary is personally applying these powers to exclude, there is no statutory right of appeal although his decision can be challenged through judicial review. Where he is applying these powers to deport, or where other Home Office Ministers or Immigration or Entry Clearance Officers are applying them on his behalf to exclude or deport, there is a right of appeal.
5. As a general rule these powers have been exercised in the past against those the Government considers represent a direct threat to:-
• National security
• Public order or the rule of law in the UK
• Or the UK's good relations with a third country
and against those who were involved or, the Government has reason to suspect were involved, in war crimes or crimes against humanity regardless of whether convicted
6. The Home Secretary announced on 20 July that he would broaden the exercise of these powers to deal more fully and systematically with those who in effect, represent an indirect threat under the same categories, in particular those who foment terrorism or seek to provoke others to terrorist acts.
7. Because of the need to tread very carefully in areas which relate to free speech, the Home Secretary announced that he would consult on a list of unacceptable behaviours which demonstrate such an indirect threat. This list is indicative not exhaustive and is set out below.
List of Unacceptable Behaviours
The list of unacceptable behaviours covers any non-UK citizen whether in the UK or abroad who uses any means or medium including:-
Writing, producing, publishing or distributing material
Public speaking including preaching
Running a website
Using a position of responsibility such as teacher, community or youth leader
To express views which the Government considers:-
• Foment terrorism or seek to provoke others to terrorist acts
• Justify or glorify terrorism
• Foment other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts
• Foster hatred which may lead to intra community violence in the UK
• Advocate violence in furtherance of particular beliefs
and those who express what the Government considers to be extreme views that are in conflict with the UK's culture of tolerance
8. Anyone wishing to express views on this list should write to exclusionpolicyconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

How Like Us Need They Be?

The behavioral repertoire of nonhuman primates is highly evolved and includes advanced problem-solving capabilities, complex social relationships, and sensory acuity equal or superior to humans. 1--Thomas M. Burbacher and Kimberly S. Grant

It is a simple question. How much like a human being does a member of another species need to be before hurting or killing them becomes so similar to hurting or killing a human that we are morally compelled to react in a similar manner in both instances? If there is no degree of similarity that will result in similar treatment, then with what are we left? Why not treat people who look differently, differently? Why not experiment on albinos, or giants, or midgets, or dwarfs, or Chinese or Pygmies? It is a simple question. Until those who choose to experiment on the species most similar to ourselves answer this question, we can only suppose that their justifications must be rooted in (an unacknowledged?) bigotry.

Few individuals with more than a passing knowledge of who monkeys and apes are would argue with the observation made above by Burbacher and Grant. But such an understanding tends to segregate people into one of two groups. Either, like Burbacher and Grant, they see the close similarities between human and nonhuman primates as an opportunity for exploitation, or else, like a growing segment of society, they see the affinities between the primate species as cause for concern, especially in light of the ways that those in the first group are taking advantage of them.

When the philosopher Jeremy Bentham wrote:

The day may come, when the rest of the animal creation may acquire those rights which never could have been withholden from them but by the hand of tyranny. The French have already discovered that the blackness of the skin is no reason why a human being should be abandoned without redress to the caprice of a tormentor (see Lewis XIV's Code Noir). It may come one day to be recognized, that the number of the legs, the villosity of the skin, or the termination of the os sacrum, are reasons equally insufficient for abandoning a sensitive being to the same fate. What else is it that should trace the insuperable line? Is it the faculty of reason, or, perhaps, the faculty of discourse? But a full-grown horse or dog is beyond comparison a more rational, as well as a more conversable animal, than an infant of a day, or a week, or even a month, old. But suppose the case were otherwise, what would it avail? the question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?2

he meant that the similarities between species, even between races, are, in fact, the point on which decisions regarding our interactions with others should turn.

Burbacher and Grant are representative of those who see similarity as an opportunity to exploit without much pause for the ethical questions that, for others, spring so readily to the fore. Burbacher and Grant reinforce their position quite strongly:

Nonhuman primates are capable of advanced behaviors that share important and fundamental parallels with humans. These parallels include highly developed cognitive abilities and binding

social relationships. The behavioral repertoire of these animals makes them valuable models for research on the functional effects of exposure to neurotoxic agents.3

Apparently, the “important and fundamental parallels” and the “highly developed cognitive abilities and binding social relationships” that many primate species share are insufficient, in the minds of Burbacher and Grant, to suggest, by way of Bentham, that these animals should not be “abandoned without redress to the caprice of a tormentor.” The neurotoxic agents considered by Burbacher and Grant include methylmercury, methanol, PCBs, lead, as well as other neuroactive agents such as cocaine, LSD, morphine, and PCP. They comment, “Drugs such as phencyclidine (PCP) produced an overall disruptive effect on all test measures.”

The cognitive abilities of monkeys and apes have increasingly been shown to be strikingly like the cognitive abilities of humans. Some of those uncovering these abilities have realized that there is an implication to such discovery. Fagot, Wasserman and Young, writing with regard to their own work on abstract conceptualization in baboons note: “To be sure, the stakes are high. What is at issue is no arcane point, but the very distinction between the minds of human beings and nonhuman animals.”4

As the distinction between the mind of a human and the mind of a monkey becomes more subtle and less easily defined, in all but terms of quantity, it becomes ever more obvious that the moral distinctions we make during our dealings with the two groups likewise must become more carefully considered. This, also, is no arcane point. Approximately sixty thousand nonhuman primates are used in the U.S. alone every year for various scientific and educational purposes.5 The methods used to raise, house, and utilize these animals are inherently cruel.6 These practices result in much mental duress and, not uncommonly, physical pain and death.

Harry Harlow used the similarity between rhesus monkey and human infants to study the nature of love. He understood clearly, even in 1958, that the two species’ similarities are such that what is learned about the emotions and psyches of one species informs us of the emotions and psyches of the other. He explained:

The macaque infant differs from the human infant in that the monkey is more mature at birth and grows more rapidly; but the basic responses relating to affection, including nursing, contact, clinging, and even visual and auditory exploration, exhibit no fundamental differences in the two species. Even the development of perception, fear, frustration, and learning capability follows very similar sequences in rhesus monkeys and human children.7

Harlow used these similarities to the detriment of the baby monkeys on whom he experimented. He showed that rhesus monkeys reared without contact with others – monkeys or humans – developed severe mental problems and behavioral aberrations. He apparently missed, altogether, the most profound implications of his work – the moral implications raised by the similarity of emotional need between the species. He was dead to the implications of the fact that what is learned about one of the primate species’ mind informs us of the minds of the other species and that what would hurt us also hurts them in very similar and familiar ways.

This similarity and familiarity with the minds of other primates is not surprising. Charles Darwin pointed out there should be a continuum of attributes throughout all species, with the most similar attributes being found in the nearest relatives. We should be able to recognize the emotions being experienced by chimpanzees and monkeys precisely because we are all so

closely related. This close relationship means that much about us, about the way we perceive and feel, is the same.

Researchers studying the neurological basis of emotion have exploited our similarities in a manner that suggests that they too have missed the more profound implications of the familial relationship that exists within the primate order. David Amaral, at the University of California, Davis, and Ned Kalin, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, experiment on the emotion centers of monkeys' brains. The techniques used by these scientists are similar.

The amygdala is the almond-shaped region of the brain involved in basic emotions such as fear, anger and aggression. There is an amygdala in each hemisphere of the brain. Amaral and Kalin destroy or otherwise damage these structures in monkeys' brains and then observe the changes in the monkeys' behavior.

The monkeys used by Kalin and Amaral are macaques. These monkeys have amygdalas both relatively and absolutely larger than human amygdalas. Comparative neurophysiology suggests that the emotions experienced by these animals are more intense and central to their lives than are the emotions experienced by humans. As relatively reduced as emotional experiences must be in humans, they are recognized as being a fundamental part of our innermost being.

Kalin provides a description of one facet of his work:

"In nonhuman primates, we are examining behavioral and physiological correlates of human anxiety. We have identified a fearful endophenotype that is characterized by high levels of trait anxiety, a specific pattern of prefrontal brain electrical activity, and increased levels of stress hormones in the blood and in the brain. We have developed new techniques to selectively lesion the primate amygdala and these studies have provided new insights into the role of the amygdala in mediating acute fearful responses as compared to states of long term anxiety."9

Amaral et al.write:

The amygdaloid complex is a prominent temporal lobe region that is associated with "emotional" information processing. Studies in the rodent have also recently implicated the amygdala in the processing and modulation of pain sensation, the experience of which involves a considerable emotional component in humans. In the present study, we sought to establish the relevance of the amygdala to pain modulation in humans by investigating the contribution of this region to antinociceptive processes in nonhuman primates. Using magnetic resonance imaging guidance, the amygdaloid complex was lesioned bilaterally in six rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta) through microinjection of the neurotoxin ibotenic acid. This procedure resulted in substantial neuronal cell loss in all nuclear subdivisions of this structure.10

Amaral writes to justify one federal grant with an implicit statement of the similarity between monkeys and humans:

[C]omplete amygdala lesions will be produced in neonatal macaque monkeys. The effects of these lesions on mother-infant and juvenile-juvenile interactions will be evaluated. Future studies (when the neonates have matured) will analyze dyadic and tetradic social interactions and thus allow comparisons of the severity of effects of neonatal or mature amygdala lesions on social behavior. During these experiments, the pituitary-adrenal activation of lesioned and

control monkeys in response to social and restraint stressors will also be analyzed. These studies will provide important insights into the neurobiology of normal social behavior and may contribute to an understanding of pathologies of social communication in disorders such as autism.11

The similarities between the primate species' minds, emotions, and social behaviors are being relied on and used as justifications for modern experiments on the brains of awake, usually restrained, monkeys. Commonly, the monkeys are required to perform some cognitive task in order to receive a small food reward or a few drops of liquid. It is a standard procedure in these types of studies to deprive the monkeys of food and/or water in order to motivate them to perform for the vivisector. The clear recognition that monkeys and humans have minds and thought processes that are very similar motivates some scientists to utilize them as experimental subjects in these ways, as at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

The ability to abstract principles or rules from direct experience allows behaviour to extend beyond specific circumstances to general situations. For example, we learn the 'rules' for restaurant dining from specific experiences and can then apply them in new restaurants. The use of such rules is thought to depend on the prefrontal cortex (PFC) because its damage often results in difficulty in following rules. Here we explore its neural basis by recording from single neurons in the PFC of monkeys trained to use two abstract rules.12

Advances in technology are allowing scientists to make ever-finer measurements of physiological processes in alert monkeys engaging in cognitive acts. Much of what is known regarding the neurophysiologic similarities of the primates is a result of these technological advances, and an argument might be made that it is only in recent years that the profundity of the discoveries has begun to amass into a noticeable body of evidence. But this is not the case at all.

The close mental, emotional, and behavioral similarities between humans and other primate species has been well known for many years, while careful scientific observation and experimentation have been demonstrating these facts for nearly a century. Wolfgang Kohler, whose investigations Jane Goodall has cited13 as among the most important in the literature, wrote in 1925 that: "The chimpanzees manifest intelligent behavior of the general kind familiar in human beings."14

In the early 1960's scientists were subjecting monkeys, increasingly, to experiments that displayed the emotional vulnerability and cognitive depths of these animals. Harlow's decades-long career as well as his success at inspiring young experimental psychologists, resulted in an explosion of papers associated with maternal and social deprivation and stress, particularly in infants. These scientists were exploiting what they already believed to be true regarding the similarity between the emotional fragility of infant monkeys and humans.15

Masserman, Wechkin, and Terris published the results of a study that underscores the fact that those who were experimenting on monkeys, even forty years ago, clearly expected them to behave as humans might in similar situations. Rhesus monkeys were trained to pull on one of two chains, depending on the color of a flashing light, in order to receive food. After training, another monkey, held in restraints, was displayed through a one-way mirror.

By pulling the chains in the correct fashion, the first monkey would receive the food reward, but one of the chains now delivered a powerful and painful electric shock to the restrained monkey. It was discovered that most of the monkeys would not shock another monkey even if it meant not being able to eat. One of the animals went without food for twelve days rather than hurting his or her companion. Monkeys who had been shocked in previous experiments themselves were even less willing to pull the chain and subject others to such torment.16 (The scientists who had seen monkeys shocked, however, continued to strap more monkeys into the chair.)

If evidence for the close similarity between a human's and a nonhuman's mind and sense of self was observed and published so long ago, and if continuing experimentation has contributed to and expanded that understanding throughout the century, why hasn't something been done to bring our treatment of these animals more in line with the guidelines we tend to employ when dealing with those in society less able to care for themselves and assert their own interests?

The answer to this question is moderately complex. Primate vivisection increased rapidly in the 1950's and 1960's. Prior to this time the availability of monkeys was more limited and many fewer researchers were using these exotic animals. This changed largely due to the importation of many hundreds of thousands of monkeys for polio research17 as well as the U.S. government's decision to keep pace or surpass the Soviet's primate-based biomedical research programs. In the early sixties the U.S. government began funding facilities for the breeding, housing, and utilization of monkeys and apes for research purposes. Today, federally funded projects around the country maintain many thousands of monkeys and make them available to government-funded researchers.18 A few large private primate suppliers and consumers of primates imported over sixty-four thousand monkeys between 1995 and 2000.19

Part of the answer to the question lies in the fact that the number and type of experiments on primates has increased to such a degree in such a short time. The public's awareness of the issue was less informed simply because many fewer experiments were being performed and much less information concerning the minds and emotions of these animals was being published. Now, more people are being exposed to, more people are being made aware of, and also more people are deciding to participate in these studies than only a few decades ago.

Another factor is the absence of checks and balances, no bureaucratic or regulatory mechanisms are in place to assess the information or consider the implications of the body of evidence and guide our policies in this area. Without such a mechanism, the federal government continues to promote primate research, provide animals to researchers, make funds available, and invent reasons to use primates in harmful experiments.20 There is nothing built into the system to regulate it in any moral manner, to evaluate current knowledge and consider the implications for new proposals. Those in a position to raise any doubt are themselves financially and professionally interested in seeing the practice continue, and they work within a community of equally interested individuals.

Within the private sphere there are professional organizations that should be monitoring scientific endeavor and providing leadership to lawmakers and the public with regard to the discoveries that animals other than humans have minds and emotions so similar to our own that experimenting on them, that keeping them in concentration-like conditions21, that killing them and harming them to further our own real or perceived interests is as unthinkably immoral as it would be if humans were being treated in similar ways. These organizations include the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, and the American Society of Primatology. They each have members claiming to be

primate experts.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has not published a position specific to the use of primates in research. The AVMA lumps all animals together and states: “We oppose unnecessary restrictions on the use of animals in scientific research” but remains mute on what “unnecessary” might mean. Given the close similarity between the primate species, it is apparent that restrictions are necessary. Given the Association’s claim that it is the authorized voice for the profession22 and the claim that veterinarians have an ethical duty to: “[F]irst consider the needs of the patient: to relieve disease, suffering, or disability while minimizing pain or fear,”23 it seems that this possible check on the use of these animals has failed completely. The public tends to view veterinarians as animal experts; the Association’s silence in this area might be seen by policy-makers in Congress as support for the status quo, which it probably is.

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) is the professional organization for animal technicians and veterinarians working in laboratory settings. The only reasons the organization might be expected to speak out for these animals is the intimacy that the members have with the many ways the animals are harmed and the fact that the public (mistakenly) expects veterinarians to be advocates for animals. But, the members are financially beholden to the institutions for which they work, and it is rare for anyone to speak out since doing so may jeopardize their livelihood. And, the members are generally willing and enthusiastic participants in the experiments themselves.

AALAS has no policy concerning the care of, or experimentation on, primates. AALAS defers to federal regulation in all matters dealing with animal care and use.24 This is akin to the National Educational Association or the National Rifle Association allowing the federal government to decide what their policies concerning education or gun control should be. The public cannot look to AALAS for any leadership in this area.

The American Society of Primatology (ASP) should be the body speaking the loudest about the implications raised by the notable similarities between the species. The ASP counts among its members: Sarah Boysen (“The present findings demonstrate that chimpanzees can classify natural objects spontaneously and that such classifications may be similar to those that would be observed in human subjects.)25 ; Frans de Waal (“It is really hard for me to imagine that they do not [have an imagination]. Chimpanzees are very innovative creatures - they deceive each other (and us!) all the time and invent many different games for themselves. All of these abilities require some degree of forethought to what might be the outcome of an action.”)26; Roger Fouts (“Humans and chimpanzees differ in their intelligence by degree, not in the kind of mental processes.”)27; Robert Ingersol (“Nim’s last words to me were, ‘Out—Hurry—Key—There…. Key—Out’, very sad. Nim passed away March 10, 2000. I did not expect that he would die at a very young twenty-six years old since chimps usually live well beyond forty years quite regularly. It has taken me this entire year to be able to speak and now write about Nim. He was my friend. Maybe my closest friend. He taught me about right and good, and trust and certainty, and he taught me what true friends are. Life long friendship, and if you had ever seen us together you would know what I mean. I knew Nim for twenty-two of his twenty-six years.”)28; Vernon Reynolds (“There is no satisfactory way to convince ourselves of our separate nature, to be certain we feel or experience something they do not feel or experience; all the evidence points the other way, to commonality.”)29; Duane Rumbaugh (“Although nonhuman primates such as rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta) have been useful models of many aspects of cognition and performance, it has been argued that, unlike humans, they may lack the capacity to respond as predictor-operators. Data from the present series of experiments undermine this claim,

suggesting instead a continuity of predictive competency between humans and nonhuman primates.")30; and Shirley Strum ("I was constantly struck by how much more like humans the baboons now seemed. They learned through insight and observation, passing new behaviors from one to another both within a single lifetime and across many lifetimes. This is social tradition, the beginnings of what eventually became 'culture.'")31.

In spite of this thread of understanding within the ASP, the leadership is dominated by laboratory researchers intent on exploiting the similarities nonhuman primates share with us. Often, very often in fact, the leadership is involved in research of questionable value and blatant cruelty. At times it seems that the leadership's understanding of the complexities of monkeys' minds, the emotional sensitivity of the animals, and the fragility of their developing psyches is cause for the scientists to devise the most absurd and deviant experiments. A paper published by a current and a past president of the Society is illustrative of this point.

The current (as of 2001) president of the ASP is John Capitanio, a researcher at the California Regional Primate Research Center (CRPRC) at the University of California, Davis. His colleague, also at CRPRC, William Mason, is a past president of the Society and also a past student of Harry Harlow.

The authors write:

Cognitive style, reflected in the generation of novel solutions and the use of identifiable response strategies in problem-solving situations, was contrasted in rhesus monkeys (Macaca mulatta) reared individually with either canine companions or inanimate surrogate mothers. Four experiments were conducted over a 5-year period, examining problem solving in relatively unstructured as well as more formal situations. Results indicated that whereas the 2 rearing groups did not differ on most measures of performance, consistent response strategies were identified for the dog-raised monkeys. The results were compared with previously published data from the same monkeys demonstrating rearing group differences in abilities to engage in complex social interaction. The animate nature of the early rearing environment may facilitate the development of a cognitive style that influences problem-solving abilities in both the social and nonsocial realms.32

In the "General Methods" section of their paper, Capitanio and Mason explain that they took six male and six female monkeys away from their mothers before they were 24 hours old. The infants were each isolated with an electric cloth-covered heating pad for 14-18 days. At this time they were each introduced to either "an adult female mongrel dog" or "a plastic hobbyhorse wrapped with acrylic fur around its midsecton." When the monkeys were about three-and-a-half years old, they were taken from their "kennel mate," a dog or a plastic hobbyhorse, and again placed in solitary confinement. With this sort of experimentation being performed by the ASP leadership, sanctioned by a NIH Regional Primate Research Center, paid for by the United States government, it should be clear that no change is likely to occur through normal channels.

The ASP leadership is comprised of those who conduct harmful experiments on primates themselves or are employed in the support of such experiments.33 Many members are similarly employed.34

So, a second part of the answer to the question of why our treatment of these animals is not more in line with the guidelines we tend to employ when dealing with those in society less able

to care for themselves and assert their own interests, is the fact that there is not an official regulatory mechanism in place that would cause or encourage an evaluation (let alone an evolution) of current policies, nor is there a professional organization acting on behalf of the animals – due to a vested economic interest – such as AALAC or the ASP, or else for some other, less clear reason, as the AVMA.

These two factors – the relatively recent mounting of evidence and experiments, and the lack of checks or balances – reinforce the tendency in society to discount the interests of others.

A third part of the answer lies in the fact that we tend not to notice those who have no voice when no voice of protest nor assertion of their rights has been raised. When a voice does arise, those in power tend to work to discount and marginalize it. When the issue of rights has arisen, whether involving race, gender, mental faculty, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or any other category, history is clear that the group in power has resisted the extension of protected status to other groups. Simply, prejudice against others, bigotry, the perceived protection of one's own interests, is a fundamental aspect of human behavior.

How like us do they have to be before the evil we do to them should be termed criminal?

This question deserves an answer. Historically, the segregation of nonhuman animals has been based on premises that have evaporated in step with discoveries concerning the animals' capabilities and characteristics. None of the reasons have been able to withstand close investigation and observation. Whether the claim has been that only humans use tools, make tools, can communicate with language, are altruistic, engage in war, have beliefs, engage in ritual, possess a culture, are capable of abstraction, of humor, of courage, of deceit, or of responsibility to others, the claims have all failed. And they have failed with regard to other primates precisely because, as we attempt to describe ourselves, we also describe those with whom we share such close and intimate ancestry.

How like us do they have to be before the evil we do to them should be termed criminal?

This question deserves an answer, and those with the greatest access to these animals should be required to answer it. And until they are willing and able to do so to the satisfaction of society at large, they should be compelled, legally, to cease their manipulations of these animals.

A common concern voiced by the vivisectors is that if primates are acknowledged to be so like us that we should stop our experiments on them, then where will it all stop? If chimpanzees are given the simplest rights today, and monkeys tomorrow, then how long will it be before dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, mice and flies are similarly protected? The answer must lie in the question: How like us do they have to be before the evil we do to them should be termed criminal?

Those wishing to maintain a sharp distinction between humans and all other species must explain what it is that keeps us apart. Why are compassion, sympathy, concern, and justice concepts we should reserve for humans alone? Why should each of these terms be redefined when speaking of humans or other animals? When we speak of humane care, why should this term be differently applied to human children and monkeys?

How like us do they have to be before the evil we do to them should be termed criminal? How

like us need they be?

The public's awareness of the ethically significant similarities between the species is increasing. More people are becoming alarmed and are demanding that the government act to protect these animals from those who are abusing them. Over 200 organizations – including large national organizations and small grass roots groups – have added their names to a demand for an immediate moratorium on primate experimentation:

A Call for an Immediate Moratorium on Primate Research

During the last 35 years, exploitative primate research has consumed billions in American tax dollars while it has contributed very little to human welfare.

It has diverted funding from non-animal research technology that could have been more productive and from social programs – such as drug rehabilitation, prenatal care, and nutrition education – that could have benefited, directly and indirectly, the majority of the population.

While over three decades of primate-based research has not produced the promised cures for human diseases, it has taught us about the sensitivity of the nonhuman primate subjects. We now know that nonhuman primates have emotional responses remarkably similar to human emotional responses.

Apes who have learned American Sign Language have used this human language to clearly communicate frustration, grief, and other emotions. There are convincing indications that nonhuman primates in experiments suffer as intensely, both physically and emotionally, as humans would suffer in the same experiments. Recognizing this, we are ethically compelled to stop using them in experiments.

We are calling for the creation of a presidential advisory committee composed of primate experts and informed lay people – a panel agreed upon by both pro-animal and pro-research advocates – to critically examine the evidence and make a recommendation to the president and the nation regarding the ethical implications of continuing exploitative primate research.

Until the committee's report is finalized, federal funding for primate research should cease.

Rick Bogle, January, 2002

Notes

1. Burbacher TM, Grant KS. 2000. Methods for studying nonhuman primates in neurobehavioral toxicology and teratology. Neurotoxicology and Teratology. Jul-Aug; 22(4): 475-86. Review.

2. Bentham, J. 1823. An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, Chapter XVII, note.

3. See note 1.

4. Fagot J, Wasserman EA, Young ME. 2001. Discriminating the relation between relations: the role of entropy in abstract conceptualization by baboons (Papio papio) and humans (Homo

sapiens). Journal of Experimental Psychology and Animal Behavioral Processes. Oct; 27(4): 316-28.

5. United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 1998. Animal Welfare Report, Fiscal Year 1998. Table 6. “Number of Animals Used by Research from First Reporting Year (1973) to the Present.”

6. Normal social bonding in primates begins nearly at birth between the mother and infant. Normal social situations allow monkeys to interact with mothers, siblings, and peers almost constantly. This is critical to normal social and mental development. Repetitive motions such as twirling, pacing, and flipping are termed stereopathies, and are a recognized result of social deprivation in monkeys. Self-mutilation, or self-injurious behavior, is a recognized result of individual housing and social deprivation in monkeys. At the Washington Regional Primate Research Center (WaRPRC) infants are routinely removed from their mothers at birth and nursery reared. There, infants have contact with other infants for one hour a day, five days a week. At the Tulane Regional Primate Research Center infants are removed from their mothers within three days of birth. It is estimated by the New England Regional Primate Research Center that at least ten percent of the monkeys there self-mutilate themselves to such a serious degree that veterinary intervention is required. At the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, at least one thousand monkeys are individually housed; self-mutilation is not uncommon there or at the California Regional Primate Research Center. A veterinarian, who worked at the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center a decade ago, claims to have achieved pair housing of seventy percent of that facility’s primate population. After leaving, he believes that the percentage has fallen to no more than thirty percent pair or group housed. This is the norm throughout the industry.

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14. Kohler W. 1925 (2nd edition, 1951, p 265) The Mentality of Apes. Routledge & Kegan Paul LTD.

15. For an overview of these experiments up until 1986, see Stevens ML. 1986. Maternal Deprivation Experiments in Psychology: A Critique of Animal Models. Published jointly by the American, National, and New England Antivivisection Societies. But maternal and social deprivation experiments continue to be funded by the National Institutes of Health today throughout the country.

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17. "Before the race for the polio vaccine, there were an estimated 5 to 10 million rhesus macaques in India. During the height of the vaccine work, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the United States alone was importing more than 200,000 monkeys a year, mostly from India. By the late 1970s, there were fewer than 200,000 rhesus macaques in India," (p. 250). Blum D. 1994. The Monkey Wars. Oxford University Press.

18. See note 5. Of these animals, many are held in National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored facilities. The eight Regional Primate Research Centers have approximately twenty thousands monkeys on hand at any one time. Outside the RPRC system, other universities such as Wake Forest and the University of South Alabama have large populations, also sponsored directly by the NIH. NIH maintains approximately one thousand monkeys itself at the National Animal Center in Poolesville, Maryland. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a large population at the National Center for Toxicological Research just outside Little Rock, Arkansas, and owns another 3000 monkeys kept on Morgan Island off the coast of South Carolina. The Department of Defense maintains monkey colonies at various facilities. Of the nearly sixty thousand primates being used every year, a very large percentage must be paid for directly with tax dollars.

19. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service LEMIS [Law Enforcement Management Information Service]. Data tabulated and itemized at the Coalition to End Primate Experimentation (CEPE) website: http://cepe.enviroweb.org/imports_chart.html

20. As a single example among many: NONHUMAN PRIMATE MODELS OF NEUROBIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM Release Date: October 4, 2001 RFA: RFA-AA-02-006 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/) Letter of Intent Receipt Date: January 21, 2002 Application Receipt Date: February 19, 2002 "PURPOSE: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) invites applications using nonhuman primate models to focus on the following areas: 1) neurobiological mechanisms and risk factors for alcoholism during late childhood through adolescence; 2) the relative contribution and/or interaction of genetic, environmental, and social factors (e.g., stress, peer influences) with neurobiological mechanisms in the development of adolescent alcohol abuse; 3) evaluation of the immediate

and long-term consequences of heavy drinking during adolescence on cognitive/brain functioning; and 4) the contribution of early alcohol exposure (juvenile and adolescent periods) to excessive drinking and abnormal cognitive and social functioning during subsequent developmental stages…. FUNDS AVAILABLE: The NIAAA intends to commit approximately $2.5 million in FY 2002 to fund approximately 6 to 8 new and/or competitive continuation grants in response to this RFA….” (Viewable at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AA-02-006.html as of January 1, 2002.)

21. For instance: On December 15-18, 1998, during an inspection of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, the USDA inspector, Dr. Isis Johnson-Brown, DVM, noted in her written report that “the area in front of the feeding pads in corral 3 that the animals have to cross to enter the inside feeding area is excessively wet, composed of a mixture of mud, algae, urine and feces, and the same conditions exist in the corners of corrals 4 and 6.”

22. American Veterinary Medical Association Constitution 2000 Revision. Article II.

23. Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), (1999 Revision). Part II, Professional Behavior, paragraph A.

24. American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. "The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) endorses the United States Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training."

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26. DeWaal responding to a PBS broadcasted Scientific American Frontiers viewer’s online question: “Do chimpanzees have emotions?” April 17, 2001. http://www.pbs.org/saf/1108/hotline/hdewaal.htm

27. Fouts R. 1997. Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees have Taught Me about Who We Are, p 350 (emphasis in original). William Morrow and Company, Inc.

28. Ingersol B. 2000. (unpublished manuscript) Chimp Friends: Nim Chimpsky 1973-2000.

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32. Capitanio JP, Mason WA. 2000. Cognitive style: problem solving by rhesus macaques (Macaca mulatta) reared with living or inanimate substitute mothers. Journal of Comparative

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33. Besides Capitanio, a recent past president, Melinda Novak, the current treasurer, Steven Shapiro, and the current executive secretary, Janette Wallis, are all affiliated with primate vivisection. Novak works with the primate colony at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is a frequent research collaborator of Steven Suomi's, another of Harlow's students. Steven Shapiro is a primate veterinarian at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Janette Wallis works in direct support of the Baboon Research Resource Program at the University of Oklahoma, a supplier of baboons to "three colleges of the Health Sciences Center, two non-profit research institutions on the Oklahoma Health Center Campus, the three main university medical teaching and research institutions in the State of Oklahoma, and 10 medical centers located throughout the United States," (from CRISP entry for grant# 5P40RR012317).

34. Of the 797 members listed in the ASP's 1999 Directory, 101 were either known by name to this author as primate vivisectors or listed themselves as affiliated with institutions such as the NIH Regional Primate Research Centers dedicated to the experimental use of primates. Many others were listed as affiliated with institutions known to be involved in primate experimentation, but not exclusively so. Persons from this latter group are not included among the 101. The percentage of ASP members directly involved with the primate experimentation industry is likely significant with regard to ASP policy decisions.

35. Bogle R. 1997. "A Call for an Immediate Moratorium on Primate Research." Coalition to End Primate Experimentation. The current list of signatories is available at http://www.primatefreedom.com/moratorium/index.html

Benefits of animal experiments no longer exist

Sunday, August 14, 2005

Are we really saving lives?

Animal Liberation Front attacks on vivisection labs are difficult to characterize in terms of how effective they are in achieving their goals. Some would argue such tactics are more effective than given credit for, whereas most would acknowledge that such methods do more harm than good.

But what invariably gets lost in the subsequent emotional fray are questions regarding the usefulness of vivisection. ALF members have a core belief of animal rights that drives them to the extremes of ignoring laws and threatening researchers. But is the emotional aftermath of such action, scientists wailing loudly that cures might have been lost, really an adequate validation of vivisection? If a scientist truly wanted to illustrate the value and efficacy of the animal model, wouldn't the best defense be to show how scientifically valid and analogous such experimental models are to the human condition in question?

Throughout the public debate following the Spence Labs action, University of Iowa scientists offered no scientific evidence as to how the destruction of their work specifically hindered progress to human medicine. Broad, generalizing statements were made about how animal models were necessary and without them people would continue to die. Only this emotionally

charged notion of loved ones dying too early was offered as reason for labeling such actions despicable.

This is part and parcel of the animal model. Vivisectors play the emotion card as a means of acquiring public support for their methods. If there's a chance to glean a cure for cancer from a thousand mice, would not the animals' pain and suffering be worth the sacrifice? Nearly all people would answer that their lives are worth such a sacrifice. But sacrificing even a billion mice will not identify a remedy for human cancer. Why not? What is wrong with vivisection as it relates to curing human disease? The answers lie partly in how vivisection began.

Claude Bernard is hailed as the father of modern medical experimentation. A French physiologist, Bernard sought to apply the rigors of chemistry and physics research to the field of human medicine. To open the doors to the innumerable secrets of human disease, Bernard pushed the physician into the research lab. From there, an investigator used his imagination for hypothesis formulation, but when it came to putting these ideas to the test, imagination was to remain at the door. If a hypothesis wasn't testable it was useless. This rigorous approach fit nicely with Bernard's advocacy of causal determinism. He believed that all events have causes and for numerically distinct but qualitatively identical systems, same cause gives same effect.

Bernard was not without morals. He insisted that using human beings for medical experimentation was profoundly unethical. So, he used what he deemed a qualitatively identical substitute: animals. For Bernard, an animal was the same as a human save for differences in scale. Animals had hearts, livers and kidneys and so on. It was obvious that they were made of the same things that we humans were. All a scientist needed to do was adjust for factors of scale (weight, surface area, volume) and causes applied to animals would elicit the same observed effects in humans. This sounds quite familiar to research proposals of today. Scientists are trying to figure out disease X with respect to this protein so they begin with a mouse that has been artificially induced with a variant of disease X while having the relative gene encoding the questionable protein knocked out for comparison with a wild-type animal.

The problem with using animals as causal analogical models is that the science of today is not the science of Bernard's time. To put it another way, an animal model might have had the resolving power to answer some, if not many, of Bernard's questions. But Bernard had no inkling of the dogma of molecular biology (DNA to RNA to protein), nor of gene regulatory networks that are different for every single living organism. Today we are mired with the complexities of unique individual proteomes, gene up and down regulation that can determine why one human twin can tolerate a certain pharmaceutical while the other human twin treats it as toxic. Bernard's causal determinism using animals as men writ small no longer applies.

Bernard went further by rejecting Darwin's theories of evolution, claiming such hypotheses weren't testable. Bernard, and, more specifically, the vivisectors that followed in his stead continued to ignore evolutionary biology and its implications to studying and elucidating causes of human disease. This trend continues today. Vivisectors assume that species differences are insignificant. Moreover, they do so without even attempting to control for the infinite number of variables that two differing gene regulatory networks necessarily possess. In a sense, the researchers of today have kept the lucrative aspects of Bernard's teachings (using animals for grants, publications and job security), yet have ignored his insistence of leaving imagination at the door and only accepting hypotheses that have passed the most critical scrutiny.

Before proclaiming that a mouse or a rat or a primate is a strong causal analogical model for a man, vivisectors should be required to prove as such with properly formulated and fastidiously tested hypotheses. Not unexpectedly, the animal model would not pass such scrutiny. The only other option is to never mention how disanalogous a particular animal is with respect to human disease. The only mention made is of loved ones, young ones, dying. These people will continue to die and diseases will remain unsolved until due attention is offered to non-animal based paradigms and the animal model becomes a relic of the past.

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Disease Mongering

by Bob Burton and Andy Rowell

The bulk of the world's drug deals are not done secretively in dark alleyways or noisy nightclubs but involve government-approved drugs prescribed by doctors or bought over the counter in pharmacies and supermarkets.

The global pharmaceutical industry--which generated revenues of more than $364 billion in 2001--is the world's most profitable stock market sector. According to IMS Health, the leading drug industry market analyst, half the global drug sales are in the US alone, with Europe and Japan accounting for another 37%.

While the common image of the legal drug industry is of workers in white lab coats, the reality is that public relations, marketing and administration commonly absorb twice the amount spent on drug research and development. During 2000 more than $13.2 billion was spent on pharmaceutical marketing in the US alone.

Driving the annual double-digit growth in the legal drug supply are a band of specialist "healthcare" PR companies working for behemoths such as Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck and Astra Zeneca. Heading the healthcare PR league table are Edelman, Ruder Finn and Chandler Chicco Agency in the US and Medical Action Communications, Shire Health Group and Meditech Media in the UK.

"Medical education" includes cultivating and deploying sponsored "key opinion leaders" such as doctors. Patient groups too can be created or wooed to assist with "disease awareness campaigns" or provide emotionally charged testimony in favor of speedy regulatory approval of new drugs.

Other lucrative revenue streams for healthcare PR companies can include organizing events such as medical conferences that provide a platform for well-trained "product champions" to announce promising results of drug research. Such results can be reported by medical journalists--who can be hired by PR firms--in medical journals that they can create for their clients.

PR companies also undertake conventional lobbying strategies such as opposing restrictions on

"direct to consumer" (DTC) advertising--currently allowed in the US and New Zealand--that sells drugs using the same techniques used to sell products like toothpaste.

Add to the mix the usual grab bag of tricks in issue management for dealing with dissenting scientists or journalists and you have the world of healthcare PR.

Buzz for Drugs

According to Bob Chandler and Gianfranco Chicco, former staffers at the PR firm of Burson-Marsteller the key to promoting drugs is creating "buzz." In 1997 Chandler and Chicco teamed up to found the Chandler Chicco Agency (CCA), which now boasts offices in New York and London and is ranked among the top healthcare PR companies.

CCA has plenty of experience creating "buzz," having launched Pfizer's $1 billion-a-year impotence drug, Viagra and the arthritis drug Celebrex for Pharmacia and Pfizer, which last year turned over $3.1 billion.

In a contributed article to the trade magazine PharmaVoice, Chandler and Chicco explained that "while buzz should always appear to be spontaneous, it should, in fact, be scientifically crafted and controlled as tightly as advertising in the New England Journal of Medicine."

One of the reasons for Viagra's success, they explained, was "Pfizer's sensitive and responsible approach" to encouraging potential patients to talk openly about impotence. To create "disease awareness," they hired celebrities and public officials to talk publicly about "erectile dysfunction," their preferred terminology.

"The buzz spread through the media, virtually eliminating the taboo word 'impotence,'" they wrote. In the US, they hired former Vice President Bob Dole to endorse the product, turning Viagra into "success beyond a marketer's wildest dreams."

Impotence Australia (IA), Pfizer's front group down under, launched an advertising campaign with PR support from Hill & Knowlton. The campaign hit a snag, however, when its undisclosed ties to Pfizer were detailed in separate articles in Australian Doctor and the Australian Financial Review. Ray Moynihan, the author of the AFR story, revealed that Pfizer had bankrolled Impotence Australia to the tune of $200,000 Australian dollars (US $121,000). In an interview with Moynihan, IA Executive Officer Brett McCann admitted, "I could understand that people may have a feeling that this is a front for Pfizer."

A later Impotence Australia advertising campaign featured Pele, the Brazilian soccer legend. "Erection problems are a common medical condition but they can be successfully treated. So talk to your doctor today . . . I would," Pele advised.

What Women Want

While some PR firms work to gain media profile for their clients, others work hosing down bad publicity. In January 2003, for example, pharmaceutical companies were caught with their pants down when the British Medical Journal featured an article by Moynihan challenging the use of exaggerated statistics by corporate-sponsored scientists seeking to create a new medical

"syndrome" called "female sexual dysfunction."

Moynihan's article was picked up by hundreds of other publications around the world, prompting a hasty response by Michelle Lerner of the bio-technology and pharmaceutical PR company HCC DeFacto. Lerner, a former business reporter for Miami Today, scrambled to mobilize "third party" allies. She dispatched an email to a number of women's health groups.

"We think it's important to counter [Moynihan] and get another voice on the record," the email stated. "I was wondering whether you or someone from your organisation may be willing to work with us to generate articles in Canada countering the point of view raised in the BMJ. This would involve speaking with select reporters about [female sexual dysfunction], its causes and treatments," she wrote.

As often happens in today's wired world, a copy of Lerner's email was forwarded to Moynihan. He contacted Lerner, who refused to disclose the identity of her client, stating that doing so would "violate ethical guidelines." When we contacted Lerner ourselves, she declined further comment and suggested that we interview HCC DeFacto Director Richard Cripps. All he would tell us, however, is that "I don't want to get into the specifics at this stage."

We also interviewed Moynihan, who expressed disgust with HCC DeFacto's crude campaign. "The participation of the corporate sector in that debate [on female sexual dysfunction] is extremely welcome if it is open. If they are going to try and get their message out there via small community groups without their fingerprints on it, that is just pathetic," he said.

Kathleen O'Grady, the editor of A Friend Indeed, a newsletter for Canadian women in menopause and midlife, was one of the recipients of Lerner's email. She told us that she was "surprised, and then very angry . . . They wanted to use our credibility to bolster their public relations. Under no circumstances would we ever agree to such an arrangement."

Disease Awareness

Writing for the British Medical Journal, Moynihan joined physicians David Henry and Iona Heath in warning that drug company marketing campaigns over-emphasize the benefits of medication. "Alternative approaches--emphasising the self-limiting or relatively benign natural history of a problem, or the importance of personal coping strategies--are played down or ignored," they wrote.

Conventional wisdom says that drugs are developed in response to disease. Often, however, the power of pharma PR creates the reverse phenomenon, in which new diseases are defined by companies seeking to create a market to match their drug.

A decade ago, the late journalist Lynn Payer wrote a book titled Disease Mongering, in which she described the confluence of interests of doctors, drug companies and media in exaggerating the severity of illness and the ability of drugs to "cure" them. "Since disease is such a fluid and political concept, the providers can essentially create their own demand by broadening the definitions of diseases in such a way as to include the greatest number of people, and by spinning out new diseases," she wrote.

Pharma PR practitioners are sometimes quite candid as they discuss the art of creating a need

for a new product. "Once the need has been established and created, then the product can be introduced to satisfy that need/desire," states Harry Cook in the "Practical Guide to Medical Education," published by the UK-based Pharmaceutical Marketing magazine.

Sometimes patient groups are created out of whole cloth to boost a new drug that is about to emerge from a drug company's "pipeline." Most of the time, however, drug companies woo existing non-profit patient groups. "Partnering with advocacy groups and thought leaders at major research institutions helps to defuse industry critics by delivering positive messages about the healthcare contributions of pharma companies,"explains Teri Cox from Cox Communication Partners, New Jersey, in a September 2002 commentary in Pharma Executive.Corporate-sponsored "disease awareness campaigns" typically urge potential consumers to consult their doctor for advice on specific medications. This advice works in tandem with corporate efforts to influence doctors, the final gatekeepers for prescription drugs.

According to Julia Cook of the Surrey-based Lowe Fusion Healthcare, potential "product champions" and "opinion leaders" in the medical fraternity are critical to influencing doctors' thinking. "The key is to evaluate their views and influence potential, to recruit them to specially designed relationship building activities and then provide them with a programme of appropriate communications platforms," Cook wrote in the "Practical Guide to Medical Education."

Recruiting potential supporters to an advisory committee, she says, allows time to develop a closer relationship and evaluation of how they can "best be used." However, a delicate touch is required. "Credibility can also be undermined by overuse," Cook warned. "If you front the same people to speak at your symposia, write publications, etc., they will be inevitably be seen as being in your pocket."

Obtaining favorable coverage in medical journals is also an important element in pharmaceutical marketing. An investigation by the Journal of the American Medical Association article found that it was a commonplace practice for articles to be "ghostwritten" for well-respected medical researchers.

Based in Oxford, England, 4D Communications is one of the PR firms that helps, in the words of its web site, to "mix experienced scientists with marketers and creatives to create memorable educational and commercial programmes." According to Emma Sergeant, 4D's managing director, PR companies can help with the "creation of authoritative journals." Indeed, drug company-sponsored publications are so lucrative that in 1995 Edelman established a subsidiary company, BioScience Communications, to "meet the education needs of major pharmaceutical firms."

Journals, though, can achieve far more than touting the benefits of a new drug. Publications can be used to create a market "by creating dissatisfaction with existing products and creating the need for something new," wrote Harry Cook from ICC Europe in a medical publishing guide. "Reprints [of journal articles] can be a very powerful selling tool, as they are perceived as being independent and authoritative." Indeed, this perception of independence and authority is precisely what healthcare PR uses to keep the public from realizing that much of what they see, hear and read about drugs originates from sources beset with conflicts of interest.

In creating or co-opting patient groups, hiring "product champions" and cultivating doctors, PR companies make it harder for citizens to obtain accurate, genuinely independent information to

enable informed health decisions. While healthcare PR campaigns are undoubtedly effective in selling more drugs, they don't necessarily make for a healthy population.

Appreciate animal-rights restraint

http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-myword0105sep01,0,6203015.story?coll=orl-opinion-headlines

Other Views My Word

Christopher Murphy

September 1, 2005

University of Iowa researcher Mark S. Blumberg's Sunday Insight piece describing vandalism and harassment by the Animal Liberation Front, whose members he suggests should be labeled as "terrorists," was so whiny and weak I was embarrassed for him, his family and the university. Intruders rescued rats and mice on which Blumberg and others were experimenting. They spilled chemicals and damaged equipment. They videotaped their visit and sent a copy to the university. They also called Blumberg and his colleagues mean names, sent him mean e-mails and signed him up for a lot of magazine subscriptions.

There was disruption, expense and loss of data. No one died. No one was injured. No one so much as suffered a paper cut, yet Blumberg describes the incident in terms so hyperbolic, I am concerned for his sanity. My favorite example, one that should get him fired from the university and laughed into hiding, was that he found the vandalism and insulting e-mails more harrowing than having his house broken into in the early 1980s by armed robbers who tied him up and stuck snub-nosed revolvers in his face. I mean, really, I can't think of a victim of a violent home invasion who wouldn't have preferred having his office wrecked while he was on vacation.

Blumberg goes on, with weepy righteousness, about how difficult it was for him to learn that after freeing them from their cages, the animal-rights intruders mixed baby mice with adult mice that weren't their mothers, all but ensuring they would be eaten. How much nicer it would have been for them to be killed by Blumberg via poison or freezing or other methods as painful. Readers aren't sure because nowhere in the piece does its author mention what really happens to them. Further, it's convenient that only rats and mice were saved from that University of Iowa lab. That way, Blumberg also can avoid mentioning the armies of cats, dogs, monkeys and chimpanzees he and others in the research industry torture and kill annually.

How stupid he must think his readers are.

Blumberg claims the folks who trashed his laboratory have a distrust of and disdain for science. I don't think that's true. I think they like science but have a distrust of and disdain for people who torture and kill animals in its name. Science can be furthered without animal experimentation. Regrettably, those who make money breeding mice, monkeys and beagles, the dog of choice for animal experimentation, are able to spend it in amounts sufficient to convince most people it

can't.

No group in United States history has won rights without inflicting, and suffering, violence. The Revolutionary War, abolition, women's suffrage, labor rights, civil rights, rights of the unborn -- all these movements have been, and continue to be, stained with violence. Blumberg and his crybaby colleagues got off with broken computers, graffiti and subscriptions to Time and TV Guide. Instead of likening animal-rights activists to actual terrorists, they should be thanking them for their restraint.

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The High Price of Animal Experimentation

August 29, 2005

by Robert Bass, Ph.D.

You do not settle if an experiment is justified or not by merely showing it is of some use. The distinction is not between useful and useless experiments, but between barbourous and civilized behavior. Vivisection is a social evil because if it advances human knowledge, it does so at the expence of human character. - George Bernard Shaw

Animal exploiters and their apologists, like Brian O'Connor, have trouble focusing on the real issues. O'Connor briefly adverts to Gayle Dean's article before launching into a long, rambling catalogue of allegations against PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). This is puzzling. You might think that Dean's article had been written about how PETA has a squeaky-clean record. O'Connor's catalogue would then make a certain amount of sense. In fact, Dean's article had been hardly concerned with PETA at all, except to point out that the organization had compiled a strong and well-documented case that the biomedical research firm, Covance, had engaged in unconscionable cruelty to their animal test-subjects. Never mind any question of animal rights: Covance appears guilty of egregious violations of existing animal cruelty law. (See for yourself at www.covancecruelty.com.) Since Dean's article was not a defence of PETA, the enumeration of their alleged sins appears to be merely an ad hominem attack: O'Connor does not like the message, so he attacks the messenger.

Still, though the supposed misdemeanors have no logical relevance, citing them makes a certain strategic sense on O'Connor's part – at least if he seeks to distract attention from the real issues. It is tempting to try to answer each allegation, to show how quotes were ripped from their contexts, and to counter the fundamentally unfair tactic of taking different things, said by different people, on different occasions, as the expression of a single sinister view. The problem with that is that editors will not tolerate having their pages taken over by the explanations. He who makes the most accusations wins by default. Evidently, O'Connor has no intention of losing

for lack of enough accusations.

Rather than being drawn into the thankless task of point-by-point reply, however, I will mention just one case where O'Connor's eagerness to believe bad things of PETA has betrayed him. He speaks of Fran Trutt, "who tried to kill the director of a medical lab." He doesn't bother mentioning that the whole thing was a put-up job, deliberately designed to make the animal rights cause look bad. Who did the designing? The lab director himself, who also made sure police were on hand to make the arrest – all of which came out at the trial, with incriminating tape transcripts to prove it.

The more important issues here are three-fold. The first has to do with O'Connor's conception of animal rights. The second is the important scientific question of whether animal research is needed. And the third is the moral question of what to do about it.

O'Connor sums up the animal rights view in a single principle, "that the life of an animal and that of a human are of equal value," and proceeds to deduce a string of consequences, asserting that animal rights advocates (ARAs) must all be extremists who believe (and perhaps practice) monstrous things. The problem is that his evidence is sadly lacking. Many, but not all, ARAs accept some kind of equality between humans and other animals. For those who do not, his initial statement of the position already errs by exaggeration. More importantly, even those who accept some kind of animal-human equality don't understand it the way O'Connor does. He imagines ARAs ready cavalierly to trade off some number of human lives for just that many animal lives, plus one more. That's a caricature on the face of it. Someone who believes in human equality doesn't automatically have to think that, if you must choose, the thing to do is always to save ten Alzheimers' patients over nine healthy adults. If human equality doesn't imply such crude accounting, no more should it be assumed that human-animal equality requires it. Nor is such crude accounting accepted by leading animal-rights thinkers. Peter Singer defends a principle of equal consideration of interests, whether human or animal interests are at stake, but argues that normally, if we must choose, a human being is to be saved rather than some other animal. From a different theoretical framework, Tom Regan reaches a similar conclusion.

Easily correctable mistakes like these about what ARAs think call into question how carefully O'Connor has thought about or investigated the position. The larger problem, though, is not that he misrepresents people, organizations or ideas, but that in the process the public is distracted from the real issues connected to animal experimentation and its moral costs. One issue is whether research must be done on animals for the sake of saving human lives. Many people have some sympathy with the argument that if we had to test on animals to save human lives, then it would not be wrong. Knowing how animals in research facilities are made to suffer and die, however, they would add that if the animal experimentation is not necessary, it should not continue. The professional animal-exploiters will be quick to assure you that there is no "if" about it, that medicine can progress in no other way, and that human lives are at stake if we listen to the ARAs rather than vigorously pursuing animal research.

There is room for reasonable doubt, however. The animal-exploiters and their spokespeople are unlikely to mention it, but many scientists doubt the value of animal testing. In a recent article, Dunc an Campbell and David Adam cite "Kathy Archibald, a geneticist and the director of Europeans for Medical Progress," commenting upon those who try "to create the impression that there is unanimous support [for animal testing] in the scientific community, and that is not the case. There is enormous doubt about the testing.... Looking at the evidence overall, animal testing is positively harmful." Further doubt comes from the fact that our evidence is

contaminated. Regulatory requirements mean that a new drug cannot go to market without being tested on animals. We do not see, and so cannot judge, what would happen instead if comparable resources, intelligence and skill were devoted to non-animal-based research.

Thus, even in the best case for animal experimentation, we are comparing a doubtful benefit, that some crucially important medical discovery can be made in no other way, to a certain cost, the suffering and death of many millions of animals a year. Rethinking our priorities may be in order.

But that is not all. There is a simple argument that animal experimentation to gain insight into human health, disease and well-being is either morally or scientifically dubious: The animals must be a great deal like us for the results to be scientifically unproblematic, but very different from us in order to be morally unproblematic.

When we want scientifically useful results, the more like us the animals are, the better. When we want clear consciences over causing disease, suffering and death to innocent creatures, the more like us the animals are, the worse. How can we have it both ways?

Perhaps we should grow up and quit trying to have things both ways. When, as Shaw suggests, doubtful benefits are purchased at the price of our character, the price is far too high.

Robert Bass, Ph.D.

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InThis Issue:

• **A Critique of the Animal Liberation Press Office**
by the Press Office
• **"If It Ain't Broke..."**
by Asananda X
• **From Social Democracy to Social-Fascism**
by Takis Fotopoulos
• **Gaps in Logic, Lapses in Politics: Critical Review of Joan Dunayer's *Speciesism***
by Steven Best

As this issue of the Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter goes to print, amazing victories are being chalked up on behalf of the animals. Huntingdon Life Sciences (LSRI), a contract animal testing company that tortures and kills 500 innocent animals every day testing oven cleaners, pesticides and pharmaceuticals, has just lost their last market maker and been de-listed from the pink sheets of the stock market. LSRI has long been a target of a world-wide, vociferous campaign to stop the needless abuse of animals for profit (www.shac.net). Now it appears they may be on the verge of having to close, paving the way for the liberation of thousands of animals, and setting the tone for the closure of the next company that exploits, oppresses and kills animals in pursuit of fraudulent science and for the financial bottom line.

In addition, fois gras has been banned in the entire city of Chicago, after a victory last year that threatens to shutter the industry nationwide by banning the production of this cruel food product. In its production, ducks have long metal tubes inserted down their throats multiple times daily to force-feed them an unnatural diet, so that their livers will be grossly enlarged, thereby producing more profits for the "farmer".

The Press Office has been busier than ever, conducting dozens of interviews over the last 3 months, and providing the mainstream media with the animal's side of the story with every act of liberation. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and look forward to hearing from you on how we can continue to fight for the lives of the tortured and the oppressed.

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" and as "terrorist" with no attention paid to the suffering that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also tries to provide a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

If the animal rights movement in the privileged heart of America most responsible for such abuse truly believes in equal rights for all species as I surely do, discussions of tactics that include physical violence cannot be ignored. Limiting or preventing any discussion while others debate the best mode of resistance to the suffering of others is a betrayal to those we claim to represent and a betrayal to the heroic spirit of resistance that was emblazoned by John Brown, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, the French Resistance and the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto who all advocated the use of arms to achieve liberation.

I've always battled with my own hypocrisy, for if it was my own son in the clutches of HLS or some other corporate or governmental death chamber, not only would I employ every means available to rescue them, but do whatever was necessary to ensure that those responsible were forever unable to commit such atrocities ever again.

If nonviolent tactics do not put an end to such atrocities carried out in our name in our time, we are obligated as representatives of those suffering not only to abandon those tactics which have failed us, but also to explore other avenues of resistance which historically time and time again have proven to be what is necessary to stop such state-sponsored violence. —Rodney Coronado

A Critique of the Animal Liberation Press Office

Since its inception in November 2004, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO, www.animalliberationpressoffice.org) has enjoyed phenomenal success in getting the plight of long-suffering animals into the media and before the public. In the first two weeks of January 2006 alone, press officers were interviewed on five radio shows discussing what happens to animals in vivisection and on the ice flows in Eastern Canada, and were also interviewed on camera for CNN, Sky News and Fox News in which all three stations aired graphic footage of animals being used in vivisection and food production. However, a few individuals within the animal rights movement have felt compelled to critique the Press Office publicly, and so here we respond to their criticism.

We are animal rights activists because we are compassionate and kind-hearted. To be violent contradicts our fundamental nature. That is understandable and commendable. It is why, in a sense, acts of economic sabotage carried out by the Animal Liberation Front represent a welcome "middle ground"--a compromise, as it were--between the two extremes of passivity and violence. And to say that may even be disingenuous, because property damage is violent--but against inanimate objects. And even the latter can be further contested, because arson surely leaves dead mice, spiders, and possibly other beings in its wake. But economic sabotage is highly effective, because the only thing that matters to the abusers is money, and therefore the deaths of these innocent bystanders is tolerated as "collateral damage." The problem is a mathematical one: the ratio of abusers to activists is astronomical. The ALF simply can't strike often enough and fast enough to throw out an all-encompassing dragnet.

Even within the strict guidelines of the ALF, underground activists have now "progressed" far beyond the original strategies of liberations and minor sabotage such as spray-painting and lock-gluing. Not that those actions are to be disparaged--but some activists have upped the ante and breached that initial comfort zone to include arson as a legitimate tactic within the ALF framework. Rod Coronado was lambasted, at first, for introducing into the US--but it is now almost universally sanctioned among liberationists.

Many activists have begun, over the last several years, to talk openly about what has been discussed and debated privately for years--the topic of violence and its potential place and role in the animal liberation movement.

(Critique of the Press Office, Continued)

Some critical of the Press Office claim that Press Officers, as ALF "spokespersons," have a duty to refrain from endorsing the use of violence. It is important to remember not only that the Press Office speaks for ALL liberation groups at some time or another, but also that the ALF guidelines themselves have been altered and modified over the years--including condoning the use of arson. Here's what a couple of prominent ALF leaders and spokespersons have had to say in the past regarding violence:

"In a war, you have to take up arms--and people will get killed. I can support that kind of action by petrol bombing and bombs under cars--and, probably, at a later stage, the shooting of vivisectors on their doorsteps. It's a war, and there's no other way you can stop vivisectors." Tim Daley, British Animal Liberation Front Leader, BBC interview, 1987.

"I would be overjoyed when the first 'scientist' is killed by a liberation activist." Vivien Smith, Former ALF Spokesperson, USA Today, September 3, 1991

Violence against those who oppress, torture, and murder others has been universally accepted as a necessary component of any serious liberation struggle--and here is where some part company with the Press Office and the sizable activist community supporting its ideological stance. Some activists, especially in this country, shy away from embracing violence as an acceptable tactic because they fear for their own freedom, reputations, careers, and livelihoods. They neglect to consider adequately the fear of the animals, who continue to be tortured and killed in increasing numbers every year. Who among true liberationists really believes a caged, tortured animal sentenced to death for no reason other than species membership would object to the use of violence to free her?

Those critics who bemoan the prospect of increasing repression from law enforcement must come to realize that such is the result only of increased effectiveness. Through evolving tactics, activists have brought a monolithic corporate enterprise (HLS) to its knees. The movement has committed the most "egregious" crime of all: we've clobbered corporate coffers! To think that law enforcement wouldn't be breathing down the necks of activists is naive and to expect rain without thunder. The SHAC-7 have recently felt that repression as they were convicted on federal charges in February. They will ultimately prevail, and the campaign will succeed--because they will not let fear deter them from their goals.

There is certainly no reason to believe that the use of violence in defense of ourselves or the animals is the only path to liberation--but it is certainly a part of that path. To deny that is to condemn the actions of Dave Blenkinsop and the Chiron bombers--something most liberationists abroad refuse to do, even though they suffer more repression than we know here in the US. The Press Office wishes to be clear on this matter: we support all liberationists--from the graffiti artist and liberator of the ALF to the Justice Department, the Revolutionary Cells, and beyond. To do otherwise is to continue condemning countless non-human animals to agonized lives and brutal deaths. To do otherwise is to condone violence, but violence only against our animal brothers and sisters.

In conclusion, the Press Office, on behalf of much of the activist community, is exposing the hypocrisy of some in the liberation movement who would advocate violence on behalf of people but not animals; who would welcome arson and other techniques, but cower before the effective use of force. Press Officers have joined a growing contingent of activists world-wide saying that we need to take a non-prejudicial look at the ultimate ineffectiveness of pitting only passive strategies against the onslaught of escalating systematic abuse of innocent animals.

The animals are our constituents. We are their voices. Let us remind ourselves of one thing: The hand that rocks the cradle of violence belongs to the animal abuser. If we were alone in a cage, waiting to be electrocuted for our skin or tortured for experimental data, what would we want others to do? Stand peacefully outside and leaflet? Write respectful letters to Congress? Spray paint the building? Or might we just want--and deserve--"any means necessary"?

"IF IT AIN'T BROKE..."

by Asananda X

"…don't fix it." But it is broke. And all the covering bandages and numbing drugs may kid you into thinking that the problem is getting better and that you are doing the best you can do, but it is not and you are not.

Over ten months ago I was at an animal rights demonstration where I was shoved across a street by a cop [see *"The S.S. Persia—Ship or Nazi?"*] I was manhandled because I was offering educational material to people waiting on a line and because the cop's father didn't show him enough affection when he was growing up.

What is the recourse of someone whose rights are violated by the police? I was told that I could file a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board, and that is what I did. I met with an agent and told her what had happened. I gave her the name of someone who gave testimony that she had witnessed what occurred. About ten months later I received a letter from the Civilian Complaint Review Board that said "Following a thorough and impartial investigation…" the Board found Officer Rafael Persia regarding threatening to arrest me for a made-up charge and using physical force against me for no reason "EXONERATED."

When looking at the accompanying sheet entitled "Explanation of Board Findings" I got a definition of *exonerated*:

> **Exonerated:** The Board determined that although the act at issue occurred, the subject officer's actions were lawful and proper and within the scope of the subject officer's authority under Police Department guidelines.

I was stunned. I assumed we were going to be playing the "His Word Against Mine" game—well against mine and hers. Instead the determination basically said, "Yes, we acknowledge that he threatened to arrest you for acting within your civil liberties and yes, he did forcibly shove you across the street against your will, but the Police Handbook doesn't consider that improper."

The system is broken and all the apologetic animal rights activists standing with signs behind a fence created by this corrupt system think they are making a significant impact.

They're not. One animal rights "leader" whose group was denied their civil rights to peaceably demonstrate for made up or irrelevant reasons like, "That's private property," and "We don't have enough manpower," still insists that working within the system is the only way to get the job done. I was at this demonstration and told this "leader" to give me a sign and I'd hold it up, which he did, but took back as soon as the cop threatened to arrest me. Did he do this because he worried about my safety? No, he did this because he worried about his rapport with the very people that were denying him his First Amendment protected right to peaceably demonstrate. He went sniveling to his police department connection after this event, who gave him a hug and assured him this wouldn't happen again.

At the next demonstration he was told by a police officer that he would

(If it Ain't Broke- Continued)

At the next demonstration he was told by a police officer that he would have to stay within the set up barricade. He argued but then agreed to follow the system and after the demonstration again went back to his police department connection to complain. He was told this wouldn't happen again. At his next demonstration, his group was placed literally *around the corner and out of sight* of the protested event. Needless to say, he went to his buddy in the precinct afterwards and complained. How many times do you have to get kicked in the ass before you realize bending over isn't the best plan?

At a lecture by an author who wrote a book about effectively communicating as it applies to social activists, the room was filled with animal rights advocates who shared "war stories" of demonstrations where someone shouted something confrontational to a passerby wearing fur and how "This is bad for our image" and "gives a negative impression to the other people who walk by." The conclusion at the end of this meeting was that we all should wear three-piece suits and dresses and only speak loud enough so as not to offend anyone who doesn't want to hear about animal suffering. This apologetic activism is what has handcuffed activists, figuratively and literally; working within a corrupt system will not get you or the animals you purport to defend justice. On the positive side, the event had free vegan snacks.

For all the animal activists out there who claim that they believe in "animal rights"—the right of an animal to exist free of human abuse because it has an intrinsic right as a living being, regardless of its perceived value to humans—who are beyond believing that adding two inches to a small cage containing fifty crammed-in chickens is a victory, how can you stand smugly with your "COMPASSION IS THE FASHION" sign while a company like Huntington Life Science kills 500 beagles a day and the factory farming industry kills about 50,000 times as many animals daily?

I am all for pursuing legal means to change laws, calling and writing politicians, educating the children and adults who are willing to listen, but if you honestly believe that an animal has the right to live its life, a couple of follow-up question that are begging to be asked are: How valuable *is* their life? As valuable as a human's? How many have to sit on death row daily while you self-righteously hold up your sign and the next morning enjoy your Starbuck's double-latte and morning paper, ignoring the fact that these "inmates" are now dead?

There is an animal rights activist who sends out quick and easy emails to her list with the simple "click here to notify your senators" format. She told her mailing list to support a proposed bill that would phase out foie gras—the force-feeding of ducks with pipes shoved down their throats to cause them to develop enlarged livers—in *twelve years*. Israel accomplished the same thing within a year and yet approval of a 12-year plan here would be followed by a back-slapping victory party among activists.

During the Holocaust if we could have bombed the train tracks transporting the victims to the gas chambers resulting in the saving of thousands, even millions, of lives, how many of the apologists would have protested saying, "That is really destructive and will hurt *our image*"? I asked this same question to one of the heads of a large animal rights organization, a person who has written many articles putting down what is termed "direct action," actions that cause property destruction in order to rescue or dissuade businesses from pursuing their animal (or environmental) abuses. She seemed to give me the old, "only as a last resort" schpeel, but in the next breath, looking over her shoulder, acknowledged that maybe we are at that point of "last resort."

During the Civil Rights abuses of the 60's, how many blacks supported writing their congressmen over taking action? If Martin Luther King Jr. had his people hold up signs saying, "BLACKS ARE PEOPLE TOO" and reacted to another forty years of more beatings and abuse by calling his demonstrations off each time there was the potential to upset someone, he would go down in history as one of the biggest cowards the world has ever seen. Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't let *the fear* of arrest, beatings or *public opinion* sway him from his mission. As Rosa Parks said, "…knowing what has to be done does away with fear."

The civil rights legislation of the 60's was an acknowledgment that, if given the choice, people will always choose what benefits themselves over what is right. These laws were in effect saying, "On your own you would continue to abuse blacks, so from now on we will punish you if you do so." Many are sitting around waiting for justice to magically spring forth from a system of law that is more interested in protecting corporate interests than those of living beings. If the system won't punish the abusers, who are we waiting to do it? God? Karma? Keanu Reeves?

There was a time when the Constitution actually meant something, but in today's environment the government has effectively used fear as a tactic for the Citizens to gleefully surrender all of their civil liberties. What makes this country great are the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, not our ability to start wars and cheerlead. The current administration has designated "free speech zones" where you have to go if you want to speak against the President when he is on tour, which violates the 1st Amendment protection of free speech and the right to peaceably assemble; Firearm confiscations have been initiated by local law enforcement agencies, in direct violation of the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms; we have seen bag checks in subways in New York which are ineffective and violate the 4th Amendment protection of privacy of your records and possessions; we are forced to fill out tax forms that require you to provide information that can be used against you in a criminal prosecution, which violates the 5th Amendment protected right of not being forced to be a witness against yourself in a criminal case; the (un)Patriot Act has given the government the ability to arrest someone *without even providing them the charge* and incarcerating them indefinitely without access to a lawyer or trial, which is in violation of the 5th Amendment (due process of law) and the 6th Amendment (the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted by witnesses against you, to be able to gather witnesses in your favor, and to have the assistance of counsel); and recently President Bush has admitted, after first having denied (in a good Christian manner, of course), that he has spied on private Citizens using wiretaps, despite the Congress having ruled this to be illegal.

We used to live in a country that felt civil liberties were so important that the law defended the right of *Nazis* to demonstrate in Skokie, Illinois—a highly Jewish community—over denying these rights, because we understood that if you prevented a group like them from demonstrating, the line in the sand could easily shift to preventing someone the government disagrees with from speaking, and we couldn't risk that. So the Supreme Court voted in favor of allowing this group—whose agenda is world domination and the destruction of the Jews—to demonstrate.

Today I hear police officers justifying shutting down Citizens' right to demonstrate with prevention as their mantra. "We don't want anyone throwing paint." While that tactic hasn't been used in the defense of animal rights in about ten years, the cops "preventative medicine" is still not how our system was designed to run. If someone breaks a law you arrest them, but you don't prevent them from exercising their rights because of the "possibility that something, on a slim chance, if the sun is setting just so, may occur." In today's climate of corporate protectionism, a Nazi running a Yom Kippur Day protest outside a Jewish temple would have a better chance at avoiding police harassment than a single animal rights demonstrator outside a fur store.

(If it Ain't Broke- Continued)

John F. Kennedy said, "If you make peaceful revolution impossible, you make violent revolution inevitable." If John F. were President today, leading a country made up of the wimpy cowards and sleepwalkers of present, his bold statement would have sounded something more like, "If you make peaceful revolution impossible, you are leaving people no option but to go home and do nothing about it." You see, John F. was living in different times. In the 60's people were fed up with the war in Vietnam and the civil rights abuses of blacks and because enough of them were smoking the good chronic they didn't give a shit anymore if the police said, "That action of yours will really hurt your group's image."

Today we are looking to leaders whose agents take pride in knocking down any nails that stand above the sleepy status quo and manage to convince themselves, with the same logic of Ann Couter calling anyone who doesn't give Stepford Wife support to the administration "unpatriotic," that they are doing something noble. We are looking to a system where it is the Congress's job to declare war and yet in the past sixty years we have fought in many wars and Congress has not declared war once. We are looking to a system where not one of the Congress, besides the two or three in the special committee that put it together, actually read the Patriot Act before voting approval for something which would change the face of America and affect all of her citizens. We are looking to a system where Republicans who, by definition, are supposed to have an agenda of less government involvement, are making it so you can't take a piss without a National I.D. card. We are looking to a system where the head strategist for the Republican party committed treason by outing a C.I.A. agent for spite and people in government have chosen loyalty to their party over loyalty to their country. We are living in a country where if fear is used as a tactic by the government to remove our civil liberties it is called "patriotism," but if the Citizens use the same tactics in the defense of living beings and the environment it is called "terrorism."

We are living in a country where a group like the SHAC 7 is going through a trial, not for committing any acts of violence in defense of animals, but because of having a webpage that seems to support such tactics, and most Americans don't care *because they don't see this as their issue.* I am surprised that white supremist, black supremist, and anti-gay groups aren't at least showing their support for the SHAC 7, extrapolating that if the government is going after a group that is trying to defend life, that maybe their groups with webpages that advocate condemning and taking the lives of individuals who are different than them may be next. Maybe they realize that because their hate groups don't pose a threat to corporate America they will never have the "T" word attached to them.

Non-violence tactics also have to be carried out in the right environment. If Gandhi tried his gig in Nazi Germany the resistance would have been over in a day because "Hitler don't play that." In this environment where "you are either with us or against us," I am not sure if non-violence would have a chance to work. But I would love to see it given the old college try, which doesn't mean being inebriated and waking up with someone who looked much better last night at the bar; it means with *full-commitment*.

I was, and still am, one who has always advocated non-violence. I've devoted my life to living the yogic way. But I am a yogi of truth, not a yogi of compassion. And the truth is, holding your protest signs ready to flee the first time any heat is applied is half-assed and ineffective and it's not enough—if you want to get the job done. If you are just interested in getting together once a month at the Animal Rights Meet-Up dinner to sit in a circle and stroke the back of the person to your right, then you're doing just fine.

But do realize that in the meantime while you are enjoying your tofu and broccoli, hundreds of thousands of animals are dying each day, and our environment is being polluted by big corporations who find it better business to pay some measly fine each year than to fix the problem.

The Indian mystic Osho said that a *revolution* never worked because it only involved replacing one group of people with another group of people and the corrupt system would bring out the same weaknesses and clamoring for power to which dysfunctional human nature is prone. He talked of *rebellion,* requiring a change in consciousness, which would result in a change in the whole system. While "the boy in the mirror" is a good place to start our work, waiting around until the image changes into one of a fully-conscious man won't protect the billions of animals each year who in the meantime are being disposed of in two kind of dumpsters—the ones outside of "science" research labs and the ones whose taste buds rule over compassion.

Don't get me wrong, as a yogi I believe consciousness is the only game in town. And I do believe if you open even a single mind to a different, more compassionate way of looking at a situation that this is a great thing. But when animal rights activists start bad mouthing other activists who stray from their apologetics, I don't care how supposedly noble the cause behind the unconsciousness; they need to be slapped out of their daydream where just punching the clock is enough. Because it's not.

I find it pathetic that we live in a world where there is probably an FBI agent reading this essay and marking down my name as an advocate of violence. I am not. I am an advocate of peace. The peace I talk about includes those of the animals and the environment. I have seen first-hand the pathetic, mostly useless effect of the predominant tactics used in the defense of animals and I am just shining a light on what most are too blind to honestly face. I am for using non-violent tactics but only with *total commitment*, where we are willing to go "the full Monty," and not where we are more focused on getting home in time for "Everybody Loves Raymond;" where we are willing to sacrifice comfort, all the way down to the remote control, for what is right.

An ACTIVE-IST needs to keep challenging and be brave, whether his method is communicated through peaceful or violent means. Most "activists" today are really PASSIVE-ISTS, too stagnant and scared to challenge the system beyond the accepted level established by the system itself.

So who is to blame in this system? Most of the blame falls on you and me, the Citizen, because we are the ones who raise our voice in complaint one week and then next week are more concerned with the T.V. Guide than our corrupt leaders. We are the ones who are too weak to realize that if the system is "broke" then no amount of gaffer tape will be able to put Humpty-Dumpty back together again. We are the ones who are so ruled by our egos that we will give to a poor child overseas and ignore the needs of our next-door neighbor and pat ourselves on the back for our altruism. We are the ones who live in such fear of facing the ordinariness of who we really are that we take comfort in the accumulation of money and power, and it doesn't matter to us who we have to step on to get it. We are the ones who think that if we just work long enough within an obese system that cares more about feeding itself than it does her starving people, that God will smile at us when we walk through the Pearly Gates. Until we are willing to burn for eternity in Hell for a righteous cause and until we develop an attention span that lasts longer than yesterday's headlines, we have no right patting ourselves on the back for anything.

Asananda X *does not advocate for violence or compassion—but truth. He can be contacted at AsanandaX@yahoo.com. He dedicates all his work to his blessed spiritual guru, Sri Baba Ganesh.*

From Social-Democracy to Social-Fascism

BY TAKIS FOTOPOULOS

Once, in the founding years of the Second International, (social-democracy) was dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism. Then, it pursued partial reforms as gradual steps towards socialism. Finally, it settled for welfare and full employment within capitalism. If it now accepts a scaling down of one and giving up of the other, what kind of movement will it change into?

The answer to the above crucial question, raised about ten years ago by a distinguished member of the ex-"New Left", has been given in practice by the policies of the social democratic parties that have been in power since then, and which -- following in the footsteps of the British Labour party—everywhere, from Sweden to Germany, have been transformed into social-liberal parties. It seems, however, that their descent from social-democracy did not (and could not) end with social-liberalism. Today, the same Labour party pioneers a new route, this time towards social fascism. This development should not surprise anyone, given that the intensification of domestic and foreign economic suppression implied by neoliberal globalisation (of which the "new" Labour party is a fervent supporter)—has inevitably been leading to a corresponding political suppression, both in Britain and abroad.

Thus, on the pretext of the London bombings, this ex-socialdemocratic party has intensified its anti-terror campaign (although the Labour government had initiated a series of Draconian "anti-terror" measures long before the bombings), introducing several semi-fascist arrangements that would allow the arbitrary arrest and detention of any suspect for a period that could extend to three months --if the security services' proposal is finally accepted, as seems likely at the moment. This, as Tim Owen wrote, "is calculated to destroy 800 years of respect for freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention". At the same time, the electronic policing of everything that moves has reached new heights, while the security services have been given the right to 'shoot-to-kill' any suspected bomber – the first victim having already been mourned in the shanty towns of Brazil. No wonder that even the ex-head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad during the anti-IRA campaign feels that Britain is "sinking into a police state"! Still, as if all this was not enough, the same "Labour" government has now surpassed itself by introducing new arrangements that penalise thought itself, completing the conversion of the birthplace of liberalism into a semi-fascist state similar to the regimes established by the Americans in post civil-war Greece and South Korea!

Specifically, the Home Office Secretary announced a broadening of his anti-terror powers on July 20th, which included the introduction of a list of "unacceptable behaviours". This list "covers any non-UK citizen whether in the UK or abroad who uses any means or medium including writing, producing, publishing or distributing material, public speaking including preaching, running a website, using a position of responsibility such as teacher, community or youth leader", in order to express views which the Government (i.e. Big Brother) considers to (among other things):

- Foment terrorism (as defined by Big Brother again) or seek to provoke others to commit terrorist acts
- Justify or glorify terrorism
- Foment other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to commit serious criminal acts
- Advocate violence in furtherance of particular beliefs

Thus, as 'New" Labour Government members have explicitly stated, the justification of "terrorist" violence (read resistance against occupying powers and their collaborators) in Iraq or even Palestine (the latter was added to the list of countries in which 'terrorist' acts take place after 9/11, as a result of pressure from the Zionist faction of the transnational elite), constitutes a crime. This makes all those of us who have failed in the past to condemn the legitimate right of resistance to military occupation guilty! By analogy, according to these purely fascist arrangements similar to the ones introduced by the Nazi occupying authorities against those resisting them (whom, by coincidence, they also used to call 'terrorists'!), one would have to classify as terrorists all those fighting colonialism by every means available to them, from Algeria to South Africa, and as collaborators all those writers who have failed to condemn them. Thus, the 'communist miasmas' and their 'fellow-travellers' of the recent past have been replaced by the 'Islamofascist miasmas' and their 'fellow-travellers' today.

Of course, the above arrangements are far from adequate for the reproduction of a semi-fascist regime. As in the pure fascist regimes of the past, mass popular support is needed-- something that necessitates a perfected system of mind control. In other words, a system that will not only create a 'truth' that happens to coincide with what the system considers as such, but that will also cultivate fear and suspicion of one's own neighbour or fellow passenger (particularly if s/he is not of the right skin colour!) as a potential 'traitor' collaborating with the external 'enemy'—Orwell's "1984" was prophetic in describing this mechanism, despite the fact that it missed the correct date. The BBC, for instance, which has always regarded itself as the flagship of 'objective' journalism (although it never failed, of course, to support the essential aims of the system itself) now plays a leading role in today's witch-hunt. This is a witch-hunt in which a good Muslim is only seen as one who peacefully accepts the occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan or Palestine and who accepts the 'peace' procedures offered by the occupying force and its collaborators, in the hope of grabbing as many 'concessions' as the oppressor may be willing to offer. No wonder that in this climate of fear and suspicion cultivated by the mass media, almost three quarters of Britons are ready to sacrifice their civil liberties for the sake of 'security' (i.e. for the sake of being protected by Big Brother, who created the problem of security in the first instance!). Neither is it surprising, of course, that the meaning of 'enemy' is gradually being extended to include everybody whom the same Big Brother classifies as being a 'terrorist'.

Thus, today, even activists of the Animal Liberation Front, who damage laboratories, farms, and research institutions in which animals are maltreated or even killed, often with no pure medical objective that could not be met with alternative means, are characterised as terrorists and are subjected to the corresponding treatment. The same applies to academics who "justify" this sort of "terrorism". For instance, the entry to Britain of Steven Best, (a distinguished American academic, writer of several significant books on postmodernism and long-standing member of the Advisory Board *of Democracy & Nature* and *The International Journal of Inclusive Democracy*) was recently banned by the Home Office. This was on the grounds that he publicly expressed the view that , "we don't want to reform them [vivisectors], we want to wipe them off the face of the earth"– making one wonder what the fate of Marx or Bakunin (who adopted the view that capitalists and their collaborators should also be wiped off the face of the earth) would have been at the hands of today's social-fascists! Another charge raised against Best was that he did not regard attacks against inanimate objects in the form of vandalism, sabotage etc as violence. This means that, in today's 'democracy', supporters of attacks against the assets of multinationals, including perhaps supporters of activists' attacks in anti-globalisation demos against McDonalds and similar establishments, could be banned from Britain today and from the entire European Union tomorrow, if the present UK presidency has its way in passing similar semi-fascist legislation at the pan-European level!

In conclusion, it is becoming increasingly clear that the only way forward is for people to realise that it is not simply some 'bad' neo-cons under Bush Jr. et al who are creating the present semi-fascist barbarity, which

(From Social-Democracy to Social-Fascism- Continued)

is for people to realise that it is not simply some 'bad' neo-cons under Bush Jr. et al who are creating the present semi-fascist barbarity, which passes as democracy all over the world. **It is the entire system of the market economy and representative 'democracy' in its present neoliberal form --which is adopted with or without some variations by neoliberals, ex-social democrats, social-liberals and the reformist Left alike-- that is to be blamed for the present multi-dimensional, constantly deteriorating crisis. This is the first critical step towards the development of a new mass anti-systemic movement aimed at creating a genuine comprehensive democracy, an Inclusive Democracy, not just as a kind of utopia but also as, perhaps, the only way out of the present deep crisis.**

** The above text is based on an article which was first published in the fortnightly column of Takis Fotopoulos in the mass circulation Athens daily Eleftherotypiaá on 3/9/2005*

[1]"Introduction", in P. Anderson and P. Camiller, eds, *Mapping the West European Left*, (London: Verso, 1994), pp. 15-16.

[2]Tim Owen, «Clarke's folly» , *Guardian,* 8/3/05

[3]Alan Travis, «Britain 'sliding into police state'» , *Guardian* , 28/1/05

[4]Martin Bright, «Muslim leaders in feud with the BBC», *Observer,* 14/8/05, Faisal Bodi, «'Panorama' was a hatchet job on Muslims», *Independent,* 23/8/05

[5]Donald MacLeod, 'Britain uses hate law to ban animal rights campaigner', *Guardian*, 31/8/05

Gaps in Logic, Lapses in Politics: Critical Review of Joan Dunayer's *Speciesism*

by Steven Best

"*We must eliminate false hopes, which blind us to real possibilities"*
--Derrick Jensen

In her two key works, *Animal Equality* and *Speciesism*, Joan Dunayer has made crucial contributions to ethics and animal rights by uncovering the human biases and prejudices against other species such as are embedded throughout our language. What was done for racist and sexist language needs to be done for speciesist language, and Dunayer has arguably led the way in her books and articles. As she notes, "The way we speak about other animals is inseparable form the way we treat them. Along with our actions, our words must accord them full consideration and respect" (xiii). To call chickens and hens "poultry," for instance, connotes that they are not individuals to be respected but food items to be consumed.

Not content with criticism, Dunayer also suggests new ways of speaking that reflect respect for other species. She inspires readers of her work to become more aware of the politics of language and convincingly demonstrates the truth of the philosophical proposition that language matters, as it shapes our perception of the world and thereby conditions our thought, values, worldviews, cultures, and actions. As she makes clear, speciesism "is both an attitude and a form of oppression" (5); the theory informs the practices which involve endless and unspeakably cruel forms of torture and exploitation.

With philosopher Gary Francione, Dunayer stands out as one of the most radical champions of animal rights and abolitionism of all forms of animal slavery. Just as Francione unmasked "new welfarists" who speak in the language of rights but advance welfarist policies in practice (such as PETA), Dunayer seeks to expose the "new speciesists" (including Francione himself!) who pretend to be anti-speciesist, but ultimately elevate human interests over nonhumans and thereby wrongly discriminate against other species.

Throughout *Speciesism*, Dunayer drives a rigorous line of reasoning that doesn't flinch from its logical consequences, such that the value of a mouse's life is exactly equal to that of a human, yet these conclusions often are problematic and flawed. Two key problems stand out. The first problem, philosophical in nature, arises from the logical incoherence of her radical egalitarianism that rejects any attempt to compare moral values among different life forms. The second problem, political in nature, stems from a naïve "legalism" that assumes abolitionist goals can be won through the corporate-dominated channels of the state, thereby failing to see the need to pursue illegal and far more forceful methods of struggle.

Although Dunayer follows Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Francione, and other key philosophers in rejecting speciesism as arbitrary and unjustifiable, she finds that ultimately they are all "new speciesists" who often violate the principle of equality by privileging humans over nonhumans.

On Singer's view, for instance, there is a *moral premium* on self-awareness and mental complexity to which one can appeal to weigh different values if necessary. For Singer, "it is not arbitrary to hold that the life of a self-aware being, capable of abstract thought, of planning for the future, of complex acts of communication, and so on, is more valuable than the life of a being without these capacities." Thus, for Singer, it is worse to cut short the life of a "normal" brain functioning human than a dog, as the human has a more complex form of "personhood," but it is wrong to favor a brain dead human over a dog for the same reason.

Dunayer, in bold contrast, vehemently rejects all appeals to cognitive complexities and existential differentiation to insist on the total equality of any form of sentient life. To her credit, Dunayer follows her logic and premises to their inexorable conclusions: "Am I saying that a firefly is as fully entitled to moral consideration as a rabbit or baboon? Yes. Am I saying that a spider has as much right to life as an egret or human? Yes. I see no logically consistent reason to say otherwise" (134).

As much as I admire her all-out assault on human supremacy, I submit that we do and must make choices between life forms all the time, and we thereby unavoidably judge and weigh relative life values. The criteria for such choices may often be tacit and unconscious, but it is necessary, and not necessarily speciesist, to attempt a rational formulation of these principles such as Singer, Regan, and others do.

Is it desirable or even possible in all cases not to operate without some hierarchical scheme? Can one ever be non-speciesist in the pure and total way Dunayer seeks? Isn't Dunayer, like everyone else, complicit in the destruction of life and doesn't she privilege herself, humans, or some animals over other animals all the time? If we want to take a walk in the park, for example, we will unavoidably step on and kill countless insects we do not see. We know this in advance, but take the walk anyway, so what makes our desire for a walk more important than the lives of insects we will unavoidably trample on? The same complexities face us when choosing among the lives of nonhuman animals. When we kill ticks and fleas that annoy and can sicken our cats and dogs, we value them over ticks and fleas. A choice has to be made, such that we will provide comfort to one life at the expense of another. To choose our beloved cats or dogs over fleas is discriminatory, but it is neither arbitrary nor wrong.

Dunayer's radical approach leads her into numerous inconsistencies and hypocrisies. She admits, for instance, that she would kill a bear in self-

(Gaps in Logic...continued)

to preserve her own existence. Self-defense is a legitimate reason for causing harm to another being, but her hypothetical action is inconsistent with her radical egalitarianism, for she is assuming that her life is more important than the life of a bear who needs food. But how can she conclude this if all beings and things are equal? She thus values her own life -- and perhaps human life in general in such cases -- over an animal's need to live by obtaining a tasty human meal. And suppose that the bear is an endangered species – is it not infinitely more valuable, in the grand scheme of evolution and biodiversity, than Dunayer's life or the life of any human at all?

I appreciate the progressive spirit, moral generosity, and non-discriminatory egalitarianism in Dunayer's approach, but I find it too utopian, too divorced from the complexity, ambiguities, and painful choices we all face in the real world that unfolds beyond and without philosophy. *Existential differentiation* is not always or necessarily *moral discrimination*.

While we certainly can disagree about what criteria should be employed, we cannot avoid making choices, however we might try to deny them. To paraphrase Jean Paul Sartre, we are condemned to making ethical choices and arranging moral hierarchies. For every second we live in this world, we do harm to it, we favor our own existence over the lives of countless beings we inadvertently kill (whether we are vegans, freegans, or neo-primitivists), and non-violence is a position we can only strive for but never fully attain. The only justification we have for living is that we might do more good than harm in our brief time on this planet.

Given her radical philosophical commitment to egalitarianism, one would expect to see a parallel commitment to militant tactics and politics, but instead there is a major disjoint. While Dunayer sketches a general picture of what her version of authentic abolitionist campaigns would like in practice, the book is striking for (1) its naïve faith in capitalist "democracy" and (2) its failure to discuss the most controversial elements of animal rights politics, namely, the ever-growing use of illegal, direct action approaches, such as the rescues, raids, and sabotage associated with the Animal Liberation Front or the high-pressure tactics of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign. Demonized by corporations and governments as terrorists, these groups have rescued animals and shut down exploiters, *succeeding where legal tactics would fail*.

As militant liberation tactics have become increasingly prominent and controversial in the UK, US, and elsewhere, it is a glaring failure that Dunayer ignores and evades *the key struggles and debates of the present*, as ever more abolitionists see legislative tactics as futile and take extreme actions appropriate to the extreme situation of animal exploitation. Dunayer does discuss and endorse "open rescues" whereby activists free animals from cages and, unlike the "closed" approach of masked ALF activists, take full responsibility for violating the law. Plausibly enough, she contends that such rescues are just stopgap measures as they save relatively few animals and are easily replaced by others. Yet she assumes an all-or-nothing outlook, failing to see the open and closed rescues are crucial elements in a larger global struggle against animal slavery, and she shows no such skepticism of her favored legislative-based tactics.

Ultimately, Dunayer presents a staid defense of the political status quo as the solution to animal exploitation, thereby arriving at the same conclusions as the blatantly welfarist organizations she reviles, such as the Humane Society of the United States. Her abolitionism is based on a fundamental misconception of the state. The fundamental role of the capitalist state – always has been, always will be -- is not to protect citizen rights and promote justice but rather to protect the profits and property of corporations.

Dunayer's modern-day version of abolitionism has little to do with the abolitionist movement of the 19th century, which was galvanized and advanced by widespread acts of sabotage, arson, and violence against slavemasters. Nat Turner, John Brown, and countless other abolitionists defended and/or employed sabotage, arson, and violence as necessary and legitimate tactics in the struggle to free black slaves. Why aren't these same tactics necessary and legitimate to use for rescuing animal slaves and stopping the animal slave trade?

Critics of illegal direct action tactics cite chapter and verse of King and Gandhi, but they labor with overly romanticized and idealistic views of human nature, believing that species supremacists can be converted through appeals to their compassion, humanity, religion, and reason. While a small minority of animal exploiters can be changed through education and moral persuasion, the vast majority are ideologically and economically wedded to violence against animals. Direct action critics rely on an equally naïve model of political struggle which assumes that "democratic" systems are sufficiently pluralistic and receptive to appeals for justice and rights that activists can defeat the economic and political monopolization of power held by corporations and powerful special interest groups. Amazingly, Dunayer and other self-proclaimed abolitionists continue to champion legalist methods in the aftermath of two stolen elections by George Bush and his cronies; in the repressive environment of the USA PATRIOT Act; from within a web of total surveillance of citizens and dissenters; in the face of encroaching fascism; and amidst the most cynical, corrupt, corporate-controlled, oppressive, and illegal political administration in US history.

Dunayer thinks there is a paradigm shift between welfarism and a genuine rights-based approach, *but the continuities are at least as significant as the discontinuities*. The main division in the animal advocacy movement is not between animal welfare and animal rights approaches, but rather between *"legalists"* who support change only in and through corporate-dominated political channels and direct action *"pluralists"* who acknowledge the value of education and legislation-based approaches, but also insist that sabotage, raids, and other illegal actions are necessary to free captive animals and to stop animal exploiters protected by the state.

In addition to sabotage, questions of the efficacy and legitimacy of violence must also be addressed not avoided. If animals are under violent attack and cannot defend themselves, if the state protects only their oppressors, and if animal rights activists are the only ones who can defend animals, do they not have the right to use sabotage and even violence against exploiters as proxy agents adhering to the principle I call "extensional self-defense"? Similarly, the principles of just war theory state that violence is morally justifiable if all nonviolent options of resistance or self-defense have been exhausted, and the minimal amount of violence needed to defeat injustice is used. Is just war theory not applicable to the war between animal exploiters and animal liberators and does it not justify the use of violence as all peaceful and legal measures have failed to stop the genocide? In addition, don't the precepts of "humanitarian war," a justification human rights hawk Bill Clinton used for bombings on Yugoslavia, apply to liberating animals with "forceful intervention" (to use Clinton's language) to prevent future harm? And isn't Bush's doctrine of "preemptive strikes" also available to abolitionists to justify violence against animal oppressors?

Societies like the US and UK defends and use violence against human beings all the time, such as blatantly evident in the current war against Iraq, but the cultures that support violence for human causes moralistically rejects it if used to defend animals. The contradiction is explained, of course, through the speciesist logic that views humans and animals as of unequal value, such that animals suffering the worst forms of living hell are somehow not worthy of a battering ram or bullet. One expects this hypocrisy in society in general, but it is particularly striking when self-professed animal advocates decry sabotage and violence against animal exploiters as morally wrong or too complex or controversial to even

(Gaps in Logic...continued)

discuss.

Enlightenment -- a precondition for legislative-based tactics -- is itself not enough for moral progress to advance; it never has been and never will be. Whether “enlightened” or not, the fact always has been that in most cases human beings seek to promote and defend their own interests. It is thus the case that throughout modern history, moral progress has occurred not through civilizing the elites who then voluntarily relinquish or broaden their power but rather through one kind of force or another – protests, demonstrations, boycotts, property destruction, and, physical violence and armed struggle.

We must not only educate, we must become a social movement. The challenge of animal rights also is our challenge, for animal rights must not only be an idea but a social movement for the liberation of the world’s most oppressed beings, both in terms of numbers and in the severity of their pain. As with all revolutions, animals will not gain rights because oppressors suddenly see the light, but rather because enough people become enlightened and learn how rock the structures of power, to shake them until new social arrangements emerge.

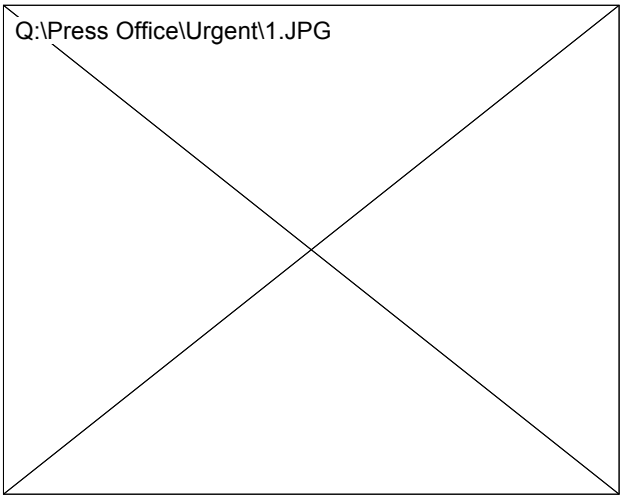
Dunayer and other legalists have a huge burden to show us that the capitalist state --- such as represented by Bush, Tom Delay, Jack Abramoff , and others – is actually capable of bring justice to animals and upholding what is right over what is profitable. If legal measures are not adequate, then what lines do we draw and why one place and not another?

If welfarism means bigger cages, and rights means abolition, and if abolition is justified “by any means necessary” in existing conditions of pervasive and institutionalised violence, unfolding on a global scale far larger than Auschwitz and Treblinka, then rights/abolitionist theory demands discussing and pursuing all kinds of political and tactical paths. If sabotage, violence, and armed struggle is necessary to protect/defend/ rescue human life, why not for animals also? Animal advocates who defend sabotage or violence to defend humans but not animals are speciesists.

However the questions will be answered, they need to be raised, not evaded. One expects as much from mealy-mouthed welfarists, but one seeks much more from avowed militants like Dunayer. The key question that goes unanswered is: *What full range of tactics is appropriate and justified for a true abolitionist position and politics?*

On the whole, *Speciesism* is a superb examination of the moral and political failures of welfarism, and a lucid examination of rights and the abolitionist policies an animal rights position implies and demands. Despite its philosophical inconsistencies and political deficits, this book is a must read for the entire animal advocacy movement and worthy of careful study and sustained discussion.

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office is a non-profit organization working to expose animal exploitation and oppression in the media. This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge. This issue is dedicated to Peter Young, political prisoner imprisoned for his compassion and willingness to put it to good use.



For more information, or back issues of the newsletter from the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, visit www.animalliberationpressoffice.org, or write to:

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Press Officers are all volunteers; donations can be sent to the above address, or made by credit card using PayPal (www.paypal.com) by sending funds to naalpo@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks to your help, the animals message is being heard through hundreds of mainstream media interviews, radio and television appearances.

"We have to organize and become involved in well coordinated action which will involve any means necessary to bring about complete elimination of the conditions that exist ..... It takes action to get action." - Malcolm X

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

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InThis Issue:

• **A Cure for What Jails Ya- An Interview with Jailed "Eco-terrorist" Jeffrey Luers**
by Gregory Dicum
• **Mythic Non-violence**
by Taime Bryant
• **Slovenian President Dr. Janez Drunovsek on Vegetarianism and Animal Rights**
by Takis Fotopoulos
• **An Essay on Direct Action**
by Anonymous
• **Press Officer Lindy Greene on "Violence"**

Are you or someone you know looking for a provocative, educational speaker on the issue of animal liberation? Our Press Officers are available to speak to groups of three to three thousand- just call, write or e-mail and we'll do our level-best to meet your needs.

The latest issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter is filled with some terrific articles about and by some real heros in the struggle for animal liberation. A UCLA law professor, the president of Slovenia, and a caged warrior all speak out about direct action and the struggle against the oppression of non-human animals.

On April 29th, shortly after our last issue went to press, hundreds of captive mink were liberated by the Animal Liberation Front in Minnesota. According to the communique issued by the group, "This is the second A.L.F. liberation in the mid-west done in absolute solidarity with Peter Young [currently imprisoned for releasing thousands of captive animals], whose unparalleled bravery and determination serves as an inspiration to us all. What better way to remember our prisoners and cheer them up than to provide freedom for others!

In further support of our imprisoned comrades, the Press Office continues to build our mailing list of jailed warriors and sympathizers. Please feel free to encourage anyone you know to enroll by mail or online at www.animalliberationpressoffice.org for our free newsletter, as well as receiving the support of not only the Press Office, but thousands of supporters worldwide. We dedicate this issue to all those waiting to see the light of day, in order to return to the struggle on behalf of animals and the environment that supports them.

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" and as "terrorist" with no attention paid to the suffering that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also tries to provide a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

A Cure for What Jails Ya- An Interview with Jailed "Eco-terrorist" Jeffrey Luers

by Gregory Dicum

In 2000, 21-year-old Jeff Luers and an accomplice set fire to three pickup trucks at a dealership in Eugene, Ore., to bring attention to gas-guzzlers' contribution to global warming. They were promptly arrested. Luers, who refused to plea bargain, was sentenced to 22 years, eight months in prison. It is the longest term ever handed down for environmentally motivated sabotage in America -- and far longer than sentences given to arsonists in Oregon who have destroyed more property and endangered peoples' lives.

But Luers' sentence may be surpassed if any of the upcoming trials of 11 people arrested in January for eco-motivated arson and vandalism yield convictions. Though Luers' crime was minor by comparison, his case serves as a precedent: the fact that one of those arrested, Daniel McGowan, used to run a website for Luers was raised in an attempt to deny McGowan bail.

Because Luers is already in prison and knows he is under total surveillance, he is willing to speak his mind on eco-sabotage as few others are. He regularly issues communiqués from prison through a website maintained by outside supporters, and co-published Heartcheck in 2005, a prison zine that sounds a call for unflinchingly hands-on eco-revolution.

But Luers' ability to communicate more widely with the outside world has been hampered by the authorities. He has been classified as a member of a "security threat group" -- a measure designed to disrupt gangs, but applied in Luers' case to his anarchist and environmental affiliations. Restrictioons on his communications have frustrated many reporters, but Grist was able to interview Luers over the phone from Oregon State Penitentiary -- the first interview he's given in nearly a year.

How do the latest arrests change the landscape for radical action?

This is pretty much the make-or-break point for the radical ecological movement in this country. A lot of people are scared and intimidated right now. They're either going to fall apart, or they're going to come together and show that, no matter how many arrests are made or how hard the government tries to crack down on dissent, the people aren't going to be quiet. That's what people need to do: whether or not they support radical action, they can't be intimidated into silence.

Did your conviction serve as the deterrent it was apparently intended to be?

Unfortunately, yeah, I think it has -- particularly in the local community that I got arrested out of. There's been a noticeable decline in underground activitiess, and part of that is the harsh sentence I received. But I think part of that is also the fact that we had a lot of people who put their hopes into easy solutions. It looked like it was going to work for a while: there was a huge galvanization of the public after [the WTO protests] in Seattle in '99. But the actions stopped. There was a lot of pressure from the police forces on separating unions and radical activists, and everything just kind of collapsed.

Coming out of that period, "eco-terrorism" was identified by the federal government as one of the biggest threats to the nation, right alongside things like al Qaeda. Did you consider yourself engaged in terrorism when you burned those trucks?

If someone believes I'm a terrorist, I don't think there's anything I'm going to say that's going to change their mind. When you look at the use of the word today, "terrorism" is basically a way to define armed struggles you disagree with.

A Cure for What Jails Ya (contimued)

What is it that you are struggling for?

The biggest thing I'm trying to achieve is a change in social conscience. Our society operates under an extreme capitalist system that is completely unsustainable. You can't take a limited amount of resources and exploit it infinitely and expect it to continue to yield the same results year after year.

I think we're finally starting to realize that: we've got climate change, our oil's starting to run out, our forests are disappearing. But the thing that bothers me is that technologies exist to create a greener lifestyle and they're not being implemented. In part it's because big companies don't see a profit in them, but it's also because consumers don't demand it.

When I think about the people who are out there sitting in their SUVs and sitting in front of their TVs and just consuming, consuming, consuming, it seems to me that most of them aren't doing it because they are evil and trying to consciously destroy the earth. It's just that they're not thinking about how they're living.

Though they may share some of your goals, a lot of environmentalists are committed to nonviolent change, and would certainly disagree with your tactics. What do you think of their tactics?

We need groups like the Sierra Club; we need people who believe in support and reform. But at the same time, I think that we need people like me who are willing and able to get our hands dirty.

Any individual that cares enough to act knows whether or not they can take that extra step. Everyone has a level of commitment they can make, whether that's taking more mass transit, or riding your bike one day a week, or not using a vehicle at all. You can organize a boycott of the biggest local polluter. If you're already an activist, you can up the scale of what you're doing and get more involved in civil disobedience. Or you can go with other, extralegal activities.

And that, of course, is the route that landed you in prison.

That is the route that landed me in prison. So I advise people to use caution.

Was the truck-burning action you were convicted for the most extreme thing you'd done?

Yeah, I'd say it was. I was trying to move into the realm of more radical actions. This was one that I felt was not only symbolic in nature but allowed me to take that baby step. I was working toward being more of an underground guerilla activist.

Did you consider yourself a member of the Earth Liberation Front?

No. It might just be my political ideology, but I have a hard time identifying with any organization. While I strongly support what the ELF does, and I definitely can identify with their tactics and reasons why they use them, any person in the United States who claims ELF in any action automatically opens themselves up to investigation by the FBI.

As we've seen recently, the bar isn't even that high: people are being investigated based on what they eat or drive, for example. Because a lot of mainstream environmentalists share overarching goals with people like you, isn't there a danger that these acts of eco-sabotage are just giving mainstream environmentalism a bad name?

No. When you've got groups like ELF out there burning things down, it makes aboveground activism look tame. Because of that, the general public knows it's asinine when Greenpeace gets charged with piracy for boarding a ship and hanging a banner.

In Heartcheck, you write things like, "Smash it. Break it. Block it. Lock it down. I don't care why you do it or how you do it but stop it. Get out there and stop it." It sounds like you're not repentant.

I'm not. Social change is never a strictly peaceful thing. I simply don't think that you're going to see any type of true social change in this country without a show of force from the people, whether that comes in the form of millions of people marching in the streets or in the form of a few thousand out there committing acts of sabotage.

Political direct action today is following in the footsteps of the noble acts of social rebellion for human liberation that have always occurred in this country: things like the Boston Tea Party, the Underground Railroad, the Suffragettes, and the civil-rights movement.

You write that many activists are "stuck in a stagnant cycle," and can't get "outside the box of activism." What are you referring to?

In this country, protest is basically a relief valve for public stress. Great examples of that now are the designated protest zones miles away from the actual thing that people are protesting. It's built into the social equation now that if you give people an outlet, they won't take things further and actually threaten the status quo. So when I say, "thinking outside the box," I mean exactly that: if you're doing something that the group you're protesting is actually allowing you to do, then it's probably not very effective.

In the same zine, you also wrote "it's a beautiful thing to see the financial district of a major city smashed to pieces." Of course we saw that in New York -- was that a beautiful thing?

That's a tough one. From a militant standpoint it's sad, but I'm not going to say that it was entirely wrong. I have friends who witnessed 9/11 and I have friends that lost family. I hate to see loss of life, period. And yet, I can understand how the World Trade Center is a legitimate target in this country. The U.S. economy is a trade economy, and when you're striking out and trying to cripple a country, you go after what it is that makes that country operate.

Some eco-tage actions have been pretty major, and could conceivably kill people who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. In your view, would that be justifiable collateral damage?

If you're looking at actions like burning cars, then no, injuring someone is not justifiable collateral damage. People are taking a lot of caution. We've seen relatively few injuries in any of these types of actions, and those that have occurred are generally the people committing the actions themselves. I don't think that it's just a matter of time before a bystander is injured through property destruction -- those groups have a track record of nearly four decades of underground illegal direct action that's involved all kinds of ssabotage, and we haven't seen a single injury.

But then again, I wouldn't be opposed to physical violence against a human being if it was necessary.

You're advocating violent social change, but your ultimate goal is to have a peaceful, sustainable society. How can a violent path lead to peace?

It's hard. You know, I ain't gonna deny that. But I don't think that an entirely passive resistance in this country could be successful. I don't think the government would allow it, frankly -- it would be quashed through force of arms.

But if people are too dispirited to even keep doing the level of actions that you mentioned in Eugene, how are they going to do something like band together and rise up in armed struggle?

I don't know. That's why I write about it. If I had solutions, believe me, I would have them all over the place whether people wanted to hear them or not. I don't.

A Cure for What Jails Ya (contimued)

All I know is that things are very, very wrong and I'm willing to work in a myriad of ways to try to fix them.

My greatest success is in simply trying to inspire people.
Out of all the people that have read anything I've written or heard any interview I've done, maybe .001 percent have actually gotten involved in illegal direct action. But I've gotten a lot of people to start recycling, or to write their representatives. And to me that's huge. If I can get just a handful of people that never cared about anything to suddenly care and want to do something no matter how small, then maybe they'll get a handful of people to do the same thing. It has to start somewhere.

But couldn't you have accomplished just as much above ground instead of going to jail? Do you think you would have had the same impact?

I don't really know, to be honest. I'm a militant, flat out. When I was 16, I aspired to be a militant, as strange as that sounds. I enjoyed being a militant. I enjoyed the civil disobedience that I did, probably in much the same way that people who become soldiers enjoy what they do. I obviously didn't fill that niche very well because I ended up in prison doing it, so perhaps there were better alternatives for me.

When I did this I was a young kid, just turned 21. I went out, did a pretty small little action and got hammered with 22 years. But I have continued to be passionate about why I did what I did, and I think that resonates with people. People want to root for the underdog, and I'm the underdog: the things that I'm struggling for are so utopian they seem almost ridiculous. Yet people want a fraction of that idealism in their lives.

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Prison Dispatch from Jeff "Free" Luers - June 16, 2006

Today is my six year anniversary. I almost didn't notice to tell you the truth. It isn't just because one day blends into another in here. Right now I just don't really care that much that I'm in prison. I know how that sounds but that's brutally honest. I got careless, I got sloppy. I slipped up. I got caught.

But, over the years something happened. I got stronger. I got louder. I became more powerful than the state ever wanted me to be.

You see, I was supposed to be a message to you all out there that would dare resist. But not enough people listened. Some kept fighting back. They kept liberating animals. They kept burning things down.

Now the state wants to send a more powerful message. They sent in agents and infiltrators. They bought off activists and turned others into traitors with threats. The message is simple: the government sees this movement as a threat. And they are telling you that if you challenge them they will try and lock you away for life.

It's a powerful message. It's down right intimidating, to be honest. But, this last weekend (June 9-11) another message was sent by 43 cities around the world. That message was very clear: we will not disappear.

Yea, some of us are going to end up in prison. That's a fact. Some of the weaker individuals might break under that threat. That's a fact, too. And that is intimidating. Why sugarcoat it?

However, when an international solidarity event, in which 43 cities participate, can be organized from a maximum security prison….That's not just intimidating. That's a threat.

There's no denying the authorities have a lot of power. But so do we and we have to recognize that. We have to harness that energy. Every time we are pushed we must push back twice as hard.

Thank you for not being silent. Thank you for standing up for the "green scare" victims, the earth liberation prisoners and for me. I am so grateful, so very grateful I can't wait to read and hear about all the events.

We have shown that we are united, that we can and will support our prisoners. Now let us show our might. They have heard your words. Make them feel your actions. The earth, the animals, the future, our children, your freedom, the people of Iraq, your very own community needs you to fight back. You are all we have. Your resistance is our only weapon, our only defense. You are the only protection we have left. PLEASE do EVERYTHING you can to help.

-Jeffrey 'Free' Luers
Prison Dispatch - June 16, 2006

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Mythic Non-violence

by Taime Bryant

All societies have myths by which they define and inspire themselves. Perhaps because myths represent aspirations as well as optimistic self-descriptions, there are inevitable gaps between a society's mythic representations and actual, complicated realities. Ironically, depending on the strength of the myth, a myth can actually slow developments in accord with the very values that underlie the myth. One example is the myth of America as a "melting pot," through which Americans have defined themselves as "color-blind" or "tolerant" of race. Of course, in actual fact there is a lot of evidence that we are color-sensitive and intolerant. Certainly American society has not been consistently experienced by people of color as a felicitous "melting pot," and the idea of "melting" (i.e., assimilation) into white society has not been uniformly perceived as the best response to racism, either. However, the strength of mythic representation of a melting pot meant that civil rights advocates had to first contest the factual basis of the mythic representation—whether in fact ours is a melting pot society--and only then build a basis for actual racial acceptance premised on something other than assimilation into white society--diversity.

Analogously, there are many myths about our regard for and protection of animals, and the strength of those myths makes acceptance of contrary evidence more difficult than it might be without such myths. One myth is that Americans reject cruel treatment of animals, as evidenced by the existence of anti-cruelty statutes in every state. While Americans' rejection of animal cruelty may accurately reflect some aspects of our values on an ideological level, reality is much more complicated. Indeed, Gary L. Francione's label of "moral schizophrenia" aptly describes our participation in and acceptance of tremendous amounts of human-caused animal suffering despite our professed rejection of such suffering.[1] Among other possible reasons for the disjuncture is the possibility that strength of the belief that we are "animal-friendly" makes contrary evidence more difficult to accept than if there were no such pre-existing belief.

Another complex myth that impacts animals and their advocates involves representations that we disdain violence and take immediate steps to redress violent harms, even as evidence grows that violence is a

Mythic Non-violence (continued)

common, unaddressed feature of our society. In this essay I claim that mythic rejection of violence harms animals and their advocates in the following ways: (1) it lays the foundation for the claims of institutional (ab)users of animals that they do not and would not treat animals cruelly or violently because they are participants in the mainstream values of the society; (2) it results in traumatic silencing of advocates because of public disbelief that so much violence against animals could be occurring in a society that abhors violence; (3) it creates broad-brush oppositional categories such that animals' advocates can be painted as violent actors in a society that rejects violence; and (4) it hinders full consideration among advocates as to what advocates themselves consider "violent" means of protecting animals for fear that such discussion might allow for *any* amount of violence and, thereby, discredit animals' advocates and their cause. However, if advocates do not participate in the definition of violence, as it concerns their own activism, violence will be defined by their opponents in ways that make advocates' tasks of exposing violence against animals much more difficult.

The problem of inappropriate demands for trust. I begin with an example raised by Justice Ginsburg during a recent visit to UCLA Law School. Justice Ginsburg related her disappointment when, shortly after oral argument in which the Government denied the use of torture in interrogating U.S. military detainees, pictures of abuse at Abu Ghraib appeared on the front pages of major newspapers all over the world. Twice on April 28th, 2004, the Solicitor General of the United States had rejected the idea that the U.S. participates in torture. And twice the Solicitor General had argued that the government should be trusted. During oral argument in the case of Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, the Solicitor General was asked, "[D]o you think there is anything in the law that curtails the method of interrogation that may be employed?"[2] The Solicitor General responded, "It's . . . the judgment of those involved in this process that the last thing you want to do is torture somebody. . . . [I]f you did that, you might get information more quickly, but you would really wonder about the reliability of the information you were getting. So the judgment of the people who do this as their responsibility is that the way you would get the best information from individuals is that you. . . try to develop a relationship of trust." [3]

The Solicitor General opined that the government is entitled to trust from the public as well as from military detainees. On the same day, during oral argument in Rumsfeld v. Padilla, the Solicitor General was asked, "Suppose the executive says mild torture we think will help get this information?"[4] The Solicitor General responded that "the executive doesn't [make use of torture],"[5] and "the fact that executive discretion in a war situation can be abused is not a good and sufficient reason for judicial micromanagement and overseeing of that authority . . . you have to trust the executive to make the kind of quintessential military judgments that are involved. . ."[6] At the time of oral argument, it was, perhaps, easy to accept such assertions. Certainly it was easier then than during the subsequent days, weeks, and months of public debate about photographs revealing abusive, violent conduct against detainees at Abu Ghraib. In her remarks to us, Justice Ginsburg expressed disappointment in the Solicitor General's assertions of a simple reality when, in fact, reality was far more complex.

For the feminists sitting with me, Justice Ginsburg's example (and disappointment) brought to mind instances in which claims of violence against women have been rejected as the hysterical overstatement of emotional women. After all, it could not be in the best interests of men to abuse their wives or female employees, could it? For me, Justice Ginsburg's example also brought to mind the claims of factory farmers that consumers need not worry about their treatment of factory farmed animals. Indeed, factory farmers have long contended that they are not cruel or violent. Practices like cutting the beaks of chickens and docking the tails of pigs have been defended as actually sparing animals from harms associated with living in close proximity to each other.[7]

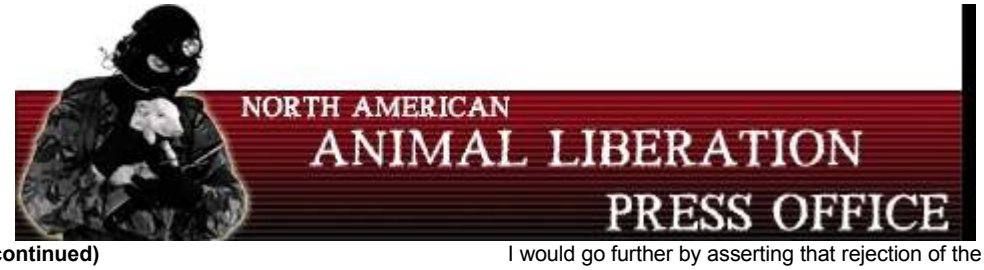
The claim is that the practices are not violent; such practices are simply necessary to reduce the harms that animals would experience if not "prepared" for life in intensive confinement. Factory farmers would have us believe that, since it is in their best interest to produce meat from well-cared for animals, they do not subject animals to cruel practices.[8] Finally, factory farmers could point to lack of prosecutions for cruelty as evidence that they are compliant with anti-cruelty laws and non-violent. Animals' advocates can answer each of these contentions, of course, but, without proof of their claims, it is difficult to convince consumers that factory farmers' claims are inaccurate.

As in the case of little documentation of U.S. military abuses of authority, there is little documentation of institutional exploitation of animals because the public is not given access to see for themselves what is going on. Animal-exploiting industries own both the animals and the buildings in which they are kept, with no obligation to provide access to the public. Such industries can reject calls for greater transparency and accountability, based on claims that their practices take into account the needs of the animals and are designed to protect rather than to harm animals. They would ask, "What need is there for inspection rights of animal facilities?" They would claim, "We are not the ones who should be monitored in this society; it is those who unlawfully disrupt our businesses who should be monitored." And, they would argue, "As participants in the mainstream values of American society, which include protection of animals from suffering and rejection of violent conduct, we should be trusted to apply those values to our own business practices."

In this essay I am not focused on whether violence against animals is "like" violence against women or against U.S. military detainees. Nor am I analyzing a claim that violence against animals should be recognized as equally bad as violence against women and U.S. military detainees or anyone else harmed by violent human action. Undoubtedly, our society imposes a hierarchy of victim-worthiness to be free of violence, but it is not the purpose of this particular essay to participate in or protest that hierarchy. My focus in these few pages is on consideration of some costs associated with a sociocultural myth of disdain for and rejection of violence. Such mythic non-violence facilitates arguments that various actors with power over others would, as mainstream participants in society, not abuse their power by acting in violent ways and that we should trust them. These arguments, taking place against a backdrop of general belief that violence is only a last resort rather than an ever-present possibility in our society, makes it easy to dismiss "radical" claims of violence occurring on a regular and predictable basis.

If violence and the potential for abuse in privately controlled settings were part of our general belief system, we would, as a matter of course, seek greater transparency and accountability without specific proof of violence and wrong-doing in a particular context or setting. While trust may be a desirable basis on which to structure some relationships, the circumstances under which trust is requested or created should take into account the prevalent use of violent conduct to produce desired effects in others. In other words, there should be a basis for trust other than a myth of societal disdain for and rejection of violence. The basis for trust should be *demonstrated* rejection of violence, not unsupported claims of non-violent conduct. In order to create a default rule of required transparency and accountability whenever one has control over another, it is important to break down mythic notions that suggest that such transparency and accountability are not necessary.

The problem of traumatic silencing. That violence is actually a common feature of our experience is illustrated by the American Psychiatric Association's changed definition of "trauma." In 1980, the APA defined a traumatic event as one "outside the range of usual human experience." In 1994, the APA apparently recognized that traumatic events are not outside the range of usual human experience.[9] It dropped that part of its definition and instead defined a traumatic event as one involving "actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or others."[10]



Mythic Non-violence (continued)

If approximately 60% of men and 50% of women state that they have been *directly* exposed to at least one traumatic event in their lives,[11] the extent of *indirect* experiencing of violence is quite great. The experience of violence is not evenly distributed, of course. Relatively powerless individuals are at greater risk of experiencing more violence than relatively powerful individuals.

Some in our society, social justice activists, actually deliberately expose themselves to violent mistreatment of others in order to bring such mistreatment to light and to stop it from continuing. Their experience of violence is necessarily and intentionally great because it is central to their goals to reveal the different manifestations and consequences of violence. As that exposure increases so do the repercussions of experiencing violence: posttraumatic stress.[12] Posttraumatic stress, in turn, adversely affects advocacy by, among other things, burdening the emotional and physical tolerance one has for being disregarded or discredited. Advocates' once calm presentations of reality may turn increasingly strident and take exaggerated form, which then becomes another basis for discrediting activists' statements about the reality of violence.

It is not the fault of advocates' presentation style that they are disbelieved. At the root of disbelief is people's reluctance to believe that there is so much violence in their society and that there is so much violence directly involved in producing their consumer products. Society's clinging to mythic non-violence and rejection of claims of violence ("it couldn't be happening here") compounds both the experience of violence and the potential for posttraumatic stress among social justice activists. Research psychiatrist Judith Herman has written about the trauma associated with, for example, rejecting war veterans' claims of the extent of violence they encountered as indicative of the very real nature of "war as hell" and rejecting rape victims' claims about their experiences as indicative of the very real nature of risks of being a woman in this society.[13] To tell the veteran that "war" is unique and not "violence" because its objectives are justified or to tell the rape victim that rape resulted only because of one aggressor's idiosyncratic evil is to deny the contributions of society to the probabilities that men and women will have experiences characterized by extreme violence. To be told that one's experience is atypical, that one is hypersensitive to situations that others easily tolerate, that one brought violence on oneself, or, in the case of animal activism, that animal suffering is of a different kind or importance, is to be told that one's experience doesn't comport sufficiently with normative values in one's society that society should bear obligations to address those claims of systemic violence.

Making claims of violence seem idiosyncratic—either on the part of the perpetrator or on the part of the victim—is a process by which mythic notions of non-violence are sustained and a means by which we reject the underlying claim of unacceptable probabilities of (and actual occurrences of) violence in our society. Rejection of the underlying claim of violence results in tenacious restating of the claim and relentless seeking of acknowledgement of those claims. Both victims and their advocates are caught at the first important step—having society acknowledge that there is a problem--without being able to move on and actually address the harms one knows are on-going. Exposing a truth that others refuse to acknowledge is a tedious process that provokes self-doubt, frustration, and guilt as the body count of direct victims of violence increases. The stress of contending with seemingly willful disbelief in the prevalence of violence warps the advocacy process and contributes to advocate burnout.[14]

This problem of being caught between reality and a disbelieving public is not traumatic in the sense of a severe physical injury, although there are known physiological effects of the stress attendant to speaking truths others refuse to hear. It is traumatic because it is disorienting to be told that the reality one presents isn't "real" or isn't important. As sociologist Jeffrey Alexander has noted, trauma is as much a social construct as it is a phenomenon of individual experience; the community's validation of the truthfulness of the individual's reports either traumatizes or heals.[15]

I would go further by asserting that rejection of the reality of violence is not costly only to the individual; it is also costly to the community. The community's acknowledgement or rejection of the underlying truth of a claim of violence can allow or inhibit progress for the individual *and* the community. The cost to the community of rejecting evidence of violence is in failing to process that evidence in ways that move the community closer to its stated ideal of non-violence.

To address public disbelief, advocates for animals seek direct access to evidence of the actual actions that are taken against animals' bodies by industrial (ab)users of animals. At this point in time, institutional (ab)use of animals is difficult to expose because institutions own both the animals and the settings in which those animals are held. Animals' advocates build a picture of animal suffering through investigations that often involve trespass or other illegal conduct. If the data from investigations dispelled disbelief, the fact of lawbreaking to acquire the evidence would be offset by the importance of what is revealed about animal suffering. Unfortunately, it is difficult to dispel disbelief because (a) the public cannot verify for itself the claims made by (lawbreaking) activists; (b) it is inconvenient and troubling to acknowledge the extreme violence wreaked on animals because it would mean that consumers of animal-based products are complicit in the mistreatment of animals; (c) industry is quick to reassure the public that advocates' claims are false; and (d) since advocates must break the law just to find out what is going on, industry can readily characterize as "criminal trespassers" those who expose their practices.

From there it is a relatively easy descent into descriptions of advocates as "terrorists" willing to go to any length, including violence. It is, of course, a gross exaggeration to state that because an activist would trespass, the activist would blow up a building or kill people. Unfortunately that kind of descent into exaggeration is faster as a general matter in post-9/11/01 America. The tendency is exacerbated by the relative lack of public protest about other social justice issues by which animal activism could be compared. It is also exacerbated by institutional (ab)users' preemptively foreclosing advocates' claims through affirmative representations to the public that they treat animals humanely. For example, even without or before negative publicity specifically directed at them and their practices, entities like United Egg Producers and Foster Farms have attempted to shape public views of themselves and their products by labeling and advertising claims of humane care, secure in the knowledge that they control access to the facts that could refute such claims.[16] Having already set in consumers' minds the image of themselves and their products as "humane," consumers will be even less likely to accept claims of animal suffering as justification for breaking into facilities where animals are held.

If the extent to which violence is a part of American society and culture were recognized, claims about its occurring in yet another area would not be met with as much initial skepticism. As it is, people don't want to believe that such mistreatment and abuse of animals, as is described by animals' activists, could really be happening in their society. While some may argue that Americans actually don't care about animals, I believe that Americans do care on an ideological level and that advocates are working against public assumptions that there are laws that prevent the animal industry practices advocates describe, that animal industries actually do attend to the needs of animals, and that the society in which they live would not produce people or institutions capable of the type of cruelty animals' advocates describe. Breaking down mythic notions about violence and non-violence is an important part of unraveling such assumptions and barriers to change.

The problem of oppositional categories. I would like to be clear that my observation that violence is a regular feature of American society does not lead me to advocate a free-for-all among disputants, or violence-based advocacy, or tolerance of violence because so much of it is occurring. Rather I contend that recognizing that violence runs throughout our society is the necessary starting point for serious and nuanced consideration of when and how to *reduce* it. That is why I began with the example of America as a mythic "melting pot."

Mythic Non-violence (continued)

Once the myth was challenged, the underlying issue of racial rejection could be approached anew, with a wholly different response: respect for the diversity among us. While that, too, has seriously mythic dimensions, at least a dialectic that moves us forward could begin with initial questioning of the basis and reality of the first myth of the "melting pot."

Because violence is rejected as part of our description and definition of ourselves, "violent" becomes an oppositional label. Some people/entities are characterized as "violent" (i.e., bad), and that gross categorization eclipses subtleties and differences in the positions of advocates who engage in different types of activism that make majority members of society uncomfortable. Similarly, some people/entities are characterized as "not violent" (i.e., good), and that gross categorization eclipses realities of conduct that refute the label. For example, agribusiness and laboratories that (ab)use animals define themselves, in opposition to trespassing advocates, as "law-abiding" and define their practices as non-violent by reference to the lawfulness of those practices, not by reference to the actual effect of those practices on animals' bodies. Animals' activists, on the other hand, are branded as "terrorists," and their conduct as "violent" by reference to their unlawfulness, rather than by a sophisticated consideration of what is actually violent (or not) about their conduct and claims. In fact, once animals' advocates are branded as violent or as terrorists, laws can be put in place that presume a need to control them. For example, the Office of the Tulare County (California) District Attorney has entered into a collaborative agency network whose goal is to monitor, investigate, and prosecute what it calls "agricultural crimes."[17] Once laws and government action are premised on a belief that animals' activists are "terrorists," it is difficult to go back to a time when *whether* activists are terrorists was still an open question.

Although animals' activists are regularly called "violent" or "terrorists" when they break the law, an actual review of so-called "direct action" activism reveals a spectrum of lawbreaking or violence. At one end is picketing and leafleting with images that the observer is likely to consider violent--violent either because of what is shown of animal (ab)use or violent because it speaks in harsh terms about the perpetrators of such violence. The activity of picketing and leafleting may, itself, be completely lawful and peaceful but, technical violations of protest regulations combined with a message that expresses anger and demands stopping violent conduct against animals can easily result in the whole activity being cast as "violent." Indeed, just being "disruptive" seems to be popularly cast as "violent."

When violence erupts during activism, the overly simple cultural definitions of violence lead to overly simple characterizations of actors and their conduct. The slide into such designation is, perhaps, exemplified by activists' attempts to document seal massacres or to question seal killers. Such attempts can result in breaking the law, if the law provides that only authorized seal "hunters" can come within one-half nautical mile of an active seal "hunt."[18] Is it an act of violence when someone breaks that law to document or to challenge the seal massacre? I contend that it is perceived as an act of violence, or at least an act that welcomes violence, because the law may well have been enacted to prevent violent encounters between seal killers and activists. Having violated a law ostensibly enacted to prevent violence, the lawbreaker will be deemed the violent one when violence does occur, even if the activist did not initiate the actual violent encounter with the seal killer. Tellingly, activists can be called "terrorists" with impunity and without the charge of exaggeration, but activists cannot use the term "massacre" in reference to seal "hunts" without accusation of exaggeration and violent intent.

Is it violent to spray paint "murderer" or "puppy killer" on the home of the general manager of a traditional kill-oriented shelter? Of course, the act could easily be considered violent, but it need not be characterized as the act of a terrorist. It could be seen as illegally expressed anger or frustration, and it could be punished as such without fanning the flames of fear.

By defining the angry or frustrated act as the "violent" act of a "terrorist," it is, of course, easier to justify suppressing the message, subjecting the activist to more severe penalties, and discrediting the movement of which the activist is a part. Should recognition of that as a consequence lead activists to engage in less property damage? I don't know. My point is that a significant part of the problem actually lies in the ease with which a label of "violent" attaches and that the ease with which it attaches is directly related to mythic non-violence as a means by which institutional (ab)users can frame such acts to their advantage. Regardless of what activists do or do not do, activists are susceptible of being labeled "violent" and, from there, being labeled "terrorist," if the term "violence" is allowed to sweep in a wide range of acts and thoughts that are disquieting to majority members of society and activists' opponents control the definition and labels that flow from it.

If lawbreaking or expressed anger is glossed as "violence," then certainly the reach of the term "violence" is great. It is also a problem that the public participates in the shaping of the term with only partial knowledge of what "violence" is in the context of animal (ab)use. The discourse about violence that takes place in the public eye is of angry activists and cowering managers of shelters, research labs, and fur farms, for example. What takes place in private is the cowering of animals, if they can, from violent reductions of their bodies to consumer goods and exploiters who disregard clear signals of pain and fear. The discourse on view to the public enables enterprises that (ab)use animals to characterize animals' activists as "violent" because the private facts that would enable activists to contextualize what "violence" means are not generally available. Accordingly, the sociocultural meaning of "violence" in this context is one-sided.

My point is somewhat different from Tom Regan when he writes that the violence of activists is but a raindrop compared to the ocean of violence perpetrated against animals[19] but that animal (ab)user industries can be cast as "paragons of nonviolence versus beady-eyed flamethrowers"[20] at least partially because some activists too often resort to violent advocacy without having pursued alternatives.[21] I don't think there is adequate documentation to support the contention that activists have insufficiently pursued alternatives. However, my primary contention is that advocates' activism, whatever it may entail, is easily characterized as "violent" because their opponents control the definition, that a myth of non-violence allows for oppositional categorization of "beady-eyed flamethrowers" and "paragons of nonviolence," and that, in addition, the hidden nature of human-caused animal suffering unreasonably and inaccurately further restricts the general meaning of "violence." Precisely because of their ability to control what the public knows about their practices, institutional animal (ab)users can control the definition of violence just as they have controlled the definition of cruelty.[22] It is not animals' activists who control the definition of violence. Violence is socioculturally defined by those who benefit from definitions of violence that do not include them.

Enterprises that (ab)use animals have been so successful in painting activists ("terrorists") as the opposite of themselves ("law-abiding providers of consumer goods") that it was possible to embed that view in law. The Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA) as enacted in 1992 creates penalties for "physically disrupting" animal enterprises, which are defined as commercial or academic enterprises that use animals for food or fiber production, agriculture, research or testing and enterprises that use or hold animals for entertainment purposes, such as zoos, rodeos, and fairs.[23] Since animals' advocates often have to trespass or "break into" animal enterprises just to document what is going on, physical disruption of an enterprise could be claimed even if actual damage to property does not occur. Just "physically disrupting" an enterprise is so dangerous—so violent—that it warrants a federal law to supplement state criminal law and its sanctions? It is so violent that it warrants making the FBI available for investigations of "physical disruptions" of animal enterprises? Animal (ab)using enterprises successfully defined "physical disruption" as a form of violence that warrants just such precautions and penalties.

Mythic Non-violence (continued)

Amendments proposed in 2005 would further expand the definition of "animal enterprises" to include animal shelters and enterprises that sell animals or animal products such as pet stores and furriers. The proposed amendments would sweep "conspirators" to disrupt an animal enterprise explicitly into its reach and would expand the definition of wrongful acts to include "causing the loss of any property used by the animal enterprise (including records), or any property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with the animal enterprise." The proposed amendments also provide for increased penalties, including the death penalty in cases in which someone has died as a result of the wrongful acts.[24]

Significantly, breaking the law to obtain information about how animals are treated is the only way to get information about many kinds of animal (ab)use. But animal (ab)using enterprises do not describe activists as "breaking the law to obtain information." Rather they are described as activists who break into animal enterprises in order to destroy those lawful businesses and to harm the law-abiding people who work in those businesses. Allowed to control the characterization of what activists are doing, animal (ab)using industries can control images that are then further embedded by way of legislation. That, in turn, furthers the image of activists as "terrorists," increases the risks of obtaining needed information that is not available through other means, and emboldens animal abusing enterprises to make greater use of a law that already gives very broad protections to animal enterprises.

Meanwhile, advocates have made little progress in creating legal avenues to obtain information currently obtained only through trespass. I contend that it will become even more difficult to create those legal avenues and that blame for that is properly placed at the feet of animal (ab)using enterprises' distortion of the meaning of "violence" in a society that swears allegiance to mythic non-violence. Since even low-level law-breaking has been defined as violence, I do not believe that primary blame for the characterization of advocates as violent terrorists lies with advocates who engage in law-breaking activities. Regardless of what activists are doing or not doing, in a fearful and insecure society the easiest way to suppress unpopular messages is by branding the messengers as "violent" and as "terrorists."

The problem of fearful silence among advocates. Despite the extraordinary reach of the proposed amendments of the AEPA, few animal advocacy groups, if any, are monitoring its progress or attacking its premises. It is being tracked by groups *opposed* to goals of animal advocacy groups, but there is relative silence in the animal advocacy community itself about the law and about proposed amendments which, if enacted, could seriously diminish the already small amount and quality of documentation of violence against animals that occurs minute by minute in animal (ab)using industries in the United States.[25] Similarly, there seems to be little discussion about the recent convictions of members of the organization known as "Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty ("SHAC") under the AEPA. This lack of debate about the law, its use in the SHAC prosecution, and proposed amendments is shocking considering none of the six defendants who ultimately were convicted were alleged to have carried out any of the substantive crimes laid out in the indictment, ranging from property damage to intimidation. Rather, the six were convicted of running the SHAC USA website, which allowed others access to information that could be used in such alleged crimes. The act of managing the website was defined as an act of conspiracy in furtherance of violating the AEPA.[26]

Despite the appearance of a thought-provoking book about direct action tactics in animal advocacy,[27] it appears that the subject of direct action (too easily restated as "violence") is taboo. There are several reasons for that reticence, but for purposes of this essay I propose only two. First, allegiance to mythic non-violence prevents sophisticated, thoughtful discussion of degrees and types of actions that are already and readily characterized as "violent" by the broader society.

Even engaging in discussion about illegal forms of activism seems high risk because illegality is seen—in a fearful, insecure society such as ours--as a precursor to terrorist violence, and allegiance to the myth of non-violence means that one must avoid, at all costs, being seen as violent. Maybe it is less ideological than pragmatic; perhaps the lack of attention to the issue is a function of the fact that most advocacy is conducted by nonprofit organizations, which fear the loss of donor dollars. However, I would like to think that there are other responses to being marginal in an insecure and fearful society than to buy wholeheartedly into the fears of the majority society with the hope that doing so will earn us a little room to exist. It won't.

Second, through others' definitions of "violence" and our own distancing from the issue for fear of tainting, the subject of "violence" may well have been reduced to the point that it is perceived as "uninteresting" or "beside the point." Surely, if we but began a discussion about "violence," we would see within its current expansive boundaries troubling contradictions and misrepresentations. For example, like Tom Regan, I tend to believe that intentional harm to anything or anyone is an inherently violent act because, for purposes of considering whether an action is violent, I focus on the nature of the act itself rather than on the nature of the target or object of violence.[28] But I agree with Regan that when considering the *justice* of a particular act of violence, other considerations become important, such as the availability of non-violent methods to accomplish the particular goal, whether saving innocent victims is the primary objective, and whether the least amount of violence necessary has been used.[29] There may or may not be agreement among members of the advocacy community regarding the definition of violence and general criteria for acts of violence to be just. There will most certainly be disagreements as to specifics, such as whether violent acts that are not immediately incident to rescuing living animals are less just than violent acts that are immediately incident to rescuing living animals.[30] There may be even more controversy associated with some views, such as ALF Press Officer Robin Webb's distinctions (1) between harm to sentient beings (violence) and harm to insentient objects (not violence), and (2) between "constructive destruction" of instruments of animal torture and mindless destruction of inanimate objects "just for kicks."[31]

The point is that these issues are complicated and that debating and discussing them is not just an idle, intellectual exercise. Intra-community debate and discussion signals our intent to challenge opponents' definitions of "violence" of ourselves as "terrorists." *Not* to debate the issues and the definitions of "violence" leaves definitional control in the hands of those who would use that control to create a large gap between animals' activists, painted as "terrorists," and law-abiding, "humane" mainstream producers of valued consumer goods. As members of a movement currently at risk of definition as "terrorists," it behooves us to discuss and debate among ourselves issues of violence, justice, and advocacy, and to challenge outsider definitions that are inappropriate and inflammatory. For the sake of clarifying what is and is not violence and terrorism, it is necessary to take on legal representation of activists who have broken laws in the name of advocacy.

Refuting the definition of violence as something animals' advocates do but that animal (ab)using industries do not do, challenging the definition of violence as something unusual in our society, and replacing the definition of violence as a simple concept with a realistically complex definition are all difficult tasks. That is all the more true when the existing definitions of violence seem already fairly deeply inscribed. However, the situation could grow worse. Without intervention in the definitional process, protest itself could ultimately be deemed a violent affront to society. In other words, this is not just about violence in the animal advocacy movement. This is about painstakingly challenging mythic representations of non-violence so that our society as a whole can, as in the case of moving from "melting pot" to "diversity," move to the next mythic representation of our interest in living in peace.

[1] Gary L. Francione, Introduction to Animal Rights 1 (2000).
[2] Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, oral argument transcript at 48. Available at http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral_arguments/

Mythic Non-violence (continued)

argument_transcripts/03-6696.pdf
[3] Id. at 50.
[4] Rumsfeld v. Padilla, oral argument transcript, page 22. Available at http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/03-1027.pdf
[5] Id. at 23.
[6] Id.
[7] Peter Singer, Animal Liberation 100-101, 121 (1975, 1990).
[8] For example, Peter Singer reports that "[F]armers are sometimes advised to avoid practices that would make their animals suffer because the animals will gain less weight under these conditions; and they are urged to handle their animals less roughly when they send them to slaughter because a bruised carcass fetches a lower price . . ." Id. at 97. See, also, the Foster Farms website reassurance that Foster Farms treats its birds well: "[I]n the interest of optimal health and development, we keep the birds comfortable, clean, and well treated." Available at http://www.fosterfarms.com/faq/raise.asp
[9] Am. Psychiatric Assoc., Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 247 (3rd ed. 1987).
[10] Allen Frances et al., The Essential Companion to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV Guidebook 424 (1995).
[11]Ronald C. Kessler et al., Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey, 52 Archives Gen. Psychiatry 1048, 1052 (1995).
[12] Judith L. Herman, Trauma and Recovery 57 **(**1992**):**
The most powerful determinant of psychological harm is the character of the traumatic event itself. Individual personality characteristics count for little in the face of overwhelming events. There is a simple, direct relationship between the severity of the trauma and its psychological impact, whether that impact is measured in terms of the number of people affected or the intensity and duration of harm. Studies of war and natural disasters have documented a 'dose-response curve,' whereby the greater the exposure to traumatic events, the greater the percentage of the population with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder."
[13] Judith Herman, Trauma and Recovery (1992).
[14] Elsewhere I have dealt at length with the subject of trauma and animal advocacy. Taimie L. Bryant, "Trauma, Law, and Advocacy for Animals," forthcoming in 1 Journal of Animal Law and Ethics ___ (2006).
[15] Alexander et al., Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity 8(2004).
[16] For example, United Egg Producers established a certification system of eggs as "Animal Care Certified," and Foster Farms claims on its website that its animals are well-cared for. Regarding UEP's certification, see United Egg Producers, Animal Care Certified, http://www.animalcarecertified.com (last visited Feb. 22, 2006) ("[W]e care about the welfare of our hens. This care provides our customers with the safest . . . eggs in the world"). For information on stopping its use, see, Compassion Over Killing, COK Exposes Maryland Egg Industry, http://www.cok.net/camp/inv/mdefi/index.php (last visited Feb. 22, 2006) ("[T]he Better Business Bureau deemed the ACC logo misleading because it conveys to consumers a false message of humane animal care"); United Poultry Concerns, "Federal Trade Commission Announces End to Misleading Egg Logo", announced October 3, 2005, http://www.upc-online.org/battery_hens/10305egglogo.html; See also Alexei Barrionuevo, Egg Producers Relent on Industry Seal, **N.Y. Times**, October 4, 2005, at C1 ("The Old [Animal Care Certified] label 'implied that the animals were treated humanely, when they are not'"). For information on Foster Farms, see, http://www.fosterfarms.com/faq/raise.asp. For a description of the controversy between East Bay Animal Advocates and Foster Farms, see, Suzanne LaBarre, "Foster Farms Threatens Litigation Against East Bay Animal Activists," Berkeley Daily Planet, April 7, 2006, available at http://www.berkeleydaily.org/text/article.cfm?issue=04-07-06&storyID=23833. Although UEP and its members can no longer use the certification and Foster Farms's claims have been contested as well, it is difficult to attack such claims of humane treatment when there is no access to the very establishments in which the animals are held. Moreover, in response to a small contingent of animal advocate investigators, United Egg Producers and Foster Farms can engage an army of lawyers to threaten civil trespass actions and libel suits.
[17] The collaboration is called the Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operations Network ("ACTION"), details of which are available at http://www.agcrime.net/request_publication.htm.
[18] Jerry Vlasak and other animal rights advocates were convicted of coming within half a nautical mile of seal killers engaged in legal seal killing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada, on March 30, 2005. The charges were brought after an altercation broke out between animals' activists documenting the killing and those killing the seals. See, "Seal hunt protester turns himself in, announces plan for hunger strike," The Guardian, March 28, 2006. Available at http://72.14.203.104/search?q=cache:d4rhxIP2cJYJ:www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm%3Fsid%3D2048%26sc%3D2+Jerry+Vlasak+seal+hunt&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=5
[19] Tom Regan, How to Justify Violence, in Terrorists or Freedom Fighters?: Reflections on the Liberation of Animals 235(Steven Best & Anthony J. Nocella II, eds., 2004).
[20] Id.
[21] Id. at 234.
[22] For description and analysis of the extent to which animal agribusinesses have defined "cruelty" so that animal "anti-cruelty" statutes do not apply to them, see, David Wolfson & Mariann Sullivan, Foxes in the Henhouse: Animals, Agribusiness and the Law: A Modern American Fable, in Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions 205, 208 (Cass Sunstein & Martha C. Nussbaum, eds., 2004).
[23] 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)-(b) (2000).
[24] Senate Bill 1926 provides for extension of the AEPA to include acts of intimidation and harassment ("§43 (a) 'Offenses' (2) (B)"), increased imprisonment terms in the event of property damage in excess of $100,000 ("§43 (b) 'Penalties' (3)") and the possibility of the death penalty if the offense causes the death of another person ("§43 (b) 'Penalties' (6)"), and extension of the definition of "animal enterprises" to include animal shelters, pet stores, breeders, and furriers (§43 (d) 'Definitions' (1)(B)). S.1926, introduced October 27, 2005 (109th Congress, 1st Session).
[25] On March 3, 2006, a Google search using the parameter <inhofe 1926 "animal enterprise> yielded only 72 hits total, of which the 11 below were organizations tracking the legislation. There were no hits related to animal rights organizations in that 72 hit list:
1. Animal Crackers blog (touts itself as an "anti-AR" site);
2. Fur Commission;
3. National Animal Interest Alliance (an organization of animal-using enterprises and private property proponents);
4. Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis (liason between NIH and Congress);
5. Society of Toxicology;
6. Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology;
7. American Association of Meat Processors;
8. American Feed Industry Association;
9. Connecticut Quarter Horse Association;
10. Minnesota Trappers Association;
11. Western United Dairymen.
[26] Various news media reported on the trial and convictions. See, e.g., Brad Knickerbocker, "Crackdown on Animal-Rights Activists," Christian Science Monitor, March 7, 2006 available at http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0307/p03s01-usju.html; Thomas Walkom, "U.S. terror hunt targets animal activists," The Toronto Star, March 13, 2006, available at http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1142203810052&call_pageid=968332188492
[27] Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella II, eds., Terrorists of Freedom Fighters?: Reflections on the Liberation of Animals (2004).
[28] Tom Regan, supra note ___ at 233.
[29] Tom Regan, for example, delineates specific criteria that include those aspects. Regan, supra note ___ at 233.
[30] For example, the line of justice that makes it unjust to burn down an "empty building" (that is only *presently* empty of living animals) but just to burn down a building as an incident to rescuing living animals is not as clear to me as it may be to Regan. Id. at 234
[31] "Staying on Target and Going the Distance: An Interview with U.D. A.L.F. Press Officer Robin Webb," at http://www.nocompromise.org/issues/22robin.html.

Mythic Non-violence (continued)

Taime Bryant is a Professor of Law, UCLA Law School. She would like to thank New York University's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund chapter for its April 14, 2006, symposium "Confronting Barriers to the Court Room for Animal Activists," which provided the opportunity to develop the ideas in this essay. She also thanks Vicki Steiner for her thoughtful comments on drafts of this essay and Bob Barker for his generous support of UCLA Law School for purposes of research and teaching in the field of animal rights law.

Slovenian President Dr. Janez Drunovsek on Vegetarianism and Animal Rights

by Takis Fotopoulos

In the entire history of mankind there have only been a handful of notable statesmen who were vegetarians and seriously took a stand for animal rights. Even today there are very few. Slovenija is one of the few bright lights in the world of politics today. By giving this interview the president Dr Janez Drnovsek has for the first time expressed the message to people, to start thinking about unimaginable brutality that man is inflicting upon animals.

Why did you become a vegetarian and what changes did you notice as a result?

Because I feel vegetarian food is better, better quality. We eat meat because it's the way we had been brought up. I have been a vegetarian for a few years and just recently I have become a vegan, which means I don't eat milk, dairy products or eggs. There is still plenty of choice, varied vegetable foods, which are sufficient to our needs. I took this step following my inner feeling. Some people believe that vegan food is very limited and boring which is not true. It can be very diverse.

Was the main reason for changing your diet your serious illness a few years back?

That was the time I gradually started to change. First step was omitting red meat, then poultry and eventually fish.

After changing to vegetarian food do you feel better, healthier?

I feel great - they say I have too much energy.

On World protection of Animals Day (October 4th) you invited members of Society for Liberation of Animals and their rights for discussions. What was discussed?

I invited them mainly to try and convey the message to general public to coincide with this day. We don't always realise how we treat animals, how we manage them. They are live creatures. As I said people have this set idea of behaviour towards animals and as result very rarely question what we actually cause. If we think for a moment how man manages animals and what impact he has on animal world we could say he was not human at all. Just think of all slaughter houses and production of beef or poultry where conditions for animals are impossible. Animals are transported in lorries many times without any water which is extremly cruel. It is not that people are bad they just don't think about it. When the final product is in front of them on the plate they don't think what was it before and how it got to this stage.

So you decided to become a vegetarian on ethical grounds as well?

The ethics are part of the reason; the other part is the fact that humans don't need the animal flesh. It is only thinking patterns we follow that are ingrained in us. It is probably really hard to change overnight, but it can be done gradually. This is how I did it.

You spoke against subsidising mass livestock farming in the media. What was your reason for this?

I believe it is foolish, that European Union's main priority is one hundred percent subsidy of farming especially meat products. The fact that EU subsidises mass production of meat and poultry is really the main obstacle from the ethics point of view. Not only that but also from the point of view of nutrition. We are frequently reminded by nature i.e. mad cow disease, recently swine fever, bird flu. It is obvious that something is not as it should be, something is disturbing the natures balance and that should be a warning to us all.

Vegetarian products in shops are more expensive than meat products, which does not encourage people to buy healthier food. Do you think that more people would stop eating meat if vegetarian option was cheaper?

That is a factor as well although I believe the main reason to be awareness of people. It is a question of making people aware of what is happening and what are they being part of. I think that is the key. That in turn leads to changes in politics i.e. agricultural policy, farming subsidies and future directions. Instead of using huge resources for mass meat production we should use it for organic farming of diverse produce from cereals, pulses, fruit and all the products that originate from these. This would certainly be kinder to nature as organic production means no use of chemical fertilizers or additives. It would mean no pollution to the environment and no chemical additives in our food. We consume these chemicals every day in our food and they are harmful. But behind all this are the interests of big manufacturers, lobbies, huge profits which are the driving force for these food manufacturers' conglomerates. Nonetheless I believe that awareness of people continues to increase in our country and in EU. People are more and more searching for natural alternatives; they are turning to nature and becoming more aware of problems regarding animals and animal products.

Would you on the basis of your own experiences recommend people to try vegetarianism?

If I do it myself I can't see a reason why I wouldn't recommend it to others. I have no complaints as I said; I have more energy than I need. If nothing else I am living proof that you can survive without meat and meat products.

How do you view the fact that we all have to pay the same national insurance contributions? It is well known that vegetarians are a lot healthier and therefore don't use the health service as frequently.

This is a wider problem; the whole concept could be different. I don't think that is a valid point, because there should be some solidarity, where healthy people help those, who are unwell. It is true however that everyone is responsible for their own health. If we consumed less harmful and unhealthy food, we would considerably lessen the financial burden on our health service. Of course it is not in everybody's interest if that were to happen. What would happen to pharmaceutical industries, huge multinational companies which make billions from sick people?

What is your view on hunting?

Hunting as killing animals in the name of sport is unethical. If you are referring to the part of the hunting organization that looks after nature environment and wild animals, for example helping with feeding in the winter - it is very useful. Hunting which is by definition just chasing and killing of animals is of course completely unethical.

What is your opinion on live animal testing?

This is a well known dilemma which has recently been in forefront of politics in Europe, in Great Britain. You have to ask yourself would you like it if you were the subject of such testing. During the second world war my father was an inmate in the concentration camp in Dachau, where he was subjected to such medical experiments together with thousands other

Slovenian President Dr. Janez Drunovsek (continued)

people. He didn't like it one bit. Some people would say it is necessary for the progress of science but I am sure that in most cases alternative methods can be used without the need for animal testing.

Where do you think the brutal treatment of animals originates?

It comes from low level of people's awareness.

And looking historically?

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact time in history. It is a question of respecting life in general. Animals are live creatures with feelings. Everyone who has a domestic animal or a pet knows that animals have feelings. The world's religions often speak about respecting life but they only mean human life and sometimes not even that. Looking back in the Middle Ages Catholics proclaimed for a long time that native Red Indians which were enslaved by the Spanish and Portuguese do not have a soul. This meant that they weren't treated as living creatures with feelings. Then they changed their mind and proclaimed that black people don't have souls. Centuries of black slavery followed. All this happened with the blessing of the Church. Today nobody accepts this anymore. We can see how historical conscience of people is changing despite the opposing views from some institutions at different points in time.

It's nearly Christmas. For millions of people it is time for happiness, love and peace. For millions of animals it is a time of terrible cruelty at slaughter so that our tables can be laden with carcases. And all this to celebrate the birth of a man who loved animals, protected them and didn't kill them. What is your view on this?

Jesus would be turning in his grave if he knew that mass slaughter of animals is carried out every year in his name. His deliverance is based on absolute respect of life and it is very difficult to imagine that he would accept millions of living creatures being killed in his honour.

Are you aware that all vegetarians (including you) are cursed by the Church and are condemned to eternal hell?

Fortunately people who say this don't decide who goes to hell and who doesn't.

All the world leaders always emphasise their endeavours for world peace. Do you think peace is connected to our relationship to animals and nourishment of people without the need for killing? Tolstoy said "As long as there are slaughter houses there will be wars."

If a person's conscience is highly developed they will not kill or be cruel to animals. You can not expect from such person to go to war and kill people for a profit. People who do not kill and eat animals have a greater chance of finding a way to live in peace in harmony. Everything is interconnected in one's conscience. On a higher level one comes with the other. Making people more aware is the key.

How do world's politicians view this?

The world's politicians are no more aware of this than most people. I have noticed that in many cases ordinary people are ahead of politicians. We see a lot of non govermental organizations championing causes that are not priorities of governments. Be it our treatment of animals, environment or climate change. This push for change is coming from ordinary members of society. When the critical mass of people accepts an idea, when majority of people expect and demand change only then will the politics respond. Sadly politicians are not the ones to encourage others to be conscious but instead they follow public opinion of the moment. When they see the public support slipping they reassess their priorities.

Tolstoy is just one of many "great minds" of mankind, who publicly spoke for vegetarianism. Let me name a few: Pythagoras, Leonardo da Vinci, Nikola Tesla, Albert Einstein, and Mahatma Ghandi….These people are recognized for their great works and achievements, they are often quoted in recognition of their genius. Why do you think that mankind does not want to hear about animals and vegetarianism from these great people for example this daring saying from Albert Einstein "Nothing will increase our chances of survival on Earth as significantly as will switching to vegetarian food." How would you comment on this quote from the genius physicist?

Certainly the chances of long-term survival of mankind would increase. Everything is connected. Better quality food is somehow connected with higher level of consciousness. It is a parallel process if we can do one we can do the other. However it is unreasonable to expect from people with lower levels of consciousness who are cruel to animals, to end wars, to stop manipulating others, to help eradicate world poverty. In short as long as consciousness level is low all the disagreements in the world today will remain and possibly increase to the point of annihilation of humans.

Are the people who say they love animals, but they eat meat, real animal lovers?

I think that people do love animals, their pets, but somehow they automatically eat other animals. If they had to slaughter a cow before they could have a steak, they would think twice. Meat products are so altered in appearance that people don't associate them with real animals.

Some ladies wear animal fur in winter. What is your view on this fashion industry?

Again it's the question of consciousness of people. People often automatically accept the behavioural patterns without questioning them. Only when you question something, you can change your point of view and become more aware of what you are buying.

Where do people get the right to slaughter, incarcerate and torture animals and at the same time demand peace and all the rights for themselves? Is this sanctioned in the constitution?

It is not sanctioned as such, of course the lawyers and legislators will tell you it is not barred; but it is indeed assumed it is legitimate.

From unofficial source I've heard that even your dog Brodi is vegetarian. Is it true?

You've been informed well. You'd better ask him personally. I'm not authorised to answer in his name. (laughing)

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An Essay on Direct Action

[from Free the Animals]

If you support animal rights then recognise direct action is an essential part of way foreward for the movement.

"Direct Action" is a term which is often misunderstood. It has the unfortunate reputation of dramatic zealotry, yet in essence, it is often quieter and more powerful than this stereotype. To act directly is to address the actual issue of your concern. If you're working against hunger, it might be simply giving someone a meal. If you're working against homelessness, it might be taking over an abandoned house and making it livable. If you want to end animal cruelty, it might include among other things, removing/liberating animals from laboratories.

Essay on Direct Action (continued)

Direct Action is used to describe a wide range of activities designed to bring attention to a particular issue. It is undertaken by people who have strong views which are not being acknowledged or acted upon by their government. Usually it is a last resort when other means of protest have been tried and have not produced the desired result. Direct action sometimes involves acting against the law.

Direct action differs from symbolic protest action, which is lobbying someone in authority to change their policies. An advantage to direct action is that it doesn't require the cooperation of the authority to be effective. If they intervene to stop your action, you have a dramatic story; if they ignore you, you've followed your conscience and can continue following it further. Since the action in itself has a direct effect, it has a power and strength. In practice, the most effective actions are both direct and symbolic, providing a clear witness to your beliefs.

Direct action requires courage, commitment, training and the ability to focus on an urgent issue. Non-violent direct action has an honorable history both as a legitimate means of protest and as a means of raising public awareness of vital issues. On December 16, 1773, Samuel Adams led three groups of fifty men with hatchets onto ships in Boston Harbor. They broke into 342 chests and threw all of the tea overboard. This defiant act resulted in $1,000,000 in damage. Never is the Boston Tea Party referred to as economic sabotage or direct action, but that is indeed exactly what it was. The French Resistance is another example of people breaking the law in order to answer to a higher morality. Their activities included sabotaging bridges and roads in order to slow down the cattle cars carrying many to their death. Members of this secret organization risked their lives and the lives of their families to save others. In the 1850's, Harriet Tubman and other members of the Underground Railroad freed slaves in the southern United States. There are also numerous accounts of abolitionists sabotaging the property of slave-owners and using various tactics to disrupt the flow of commerce in the slave system. These individuals acted illegally at the time, but they are now regarded as heroes for their role in ending slavery.

Animal Liberation is a worldwide movement that is growing rapidly. Direct action activists working for animal liberation make no excuses for their efforts. The results that they have achieved speak for themselves. The direct action efforts that animal liberation activists carry out at animal research laboratories have given us proof of horrific cruelty that would not have been discovered or believed otherwise. They have resulted in the filing of criminal charges against laboratories, citing of experimenters for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and, in some cases, shutting down of abusive labs for good. The direct action efforts of these activists have also been followed by widespread scientific condemnation of the practices occurring in the targeted labs. While some direct action may be illegal, can the efforts really be considered immoral? For the tens of thousands of animals who have been rescued, the courageous volunteers who have risked their own freedom, are nothing less than heroes.

Direct action activists believe that the situation we face is so serious, and the changes demanded by it so massive that the only solution is for people to take their future in their hands and physically halt further animal cruelty and suffering. To quote Malcolm X, "If we are extremists, then we are not ashamed of it, for the conditions that our people suffer are extreme, and extreme illness can not be cured with moderate medicine".

Real social change can never be realized from the use of one or a few tactics alone. All possible strategies are necessary to realize any sort of social change. The animal rights movement needs to work together to achieve change. Protests and education are important tools in ending animal abuse - but for the animals suffering in cages right now - the direct action of compassionate activists is even better. We need to continue to write letters, picket fur stores, support mainstream organizations, and we also need underground direct action.

Press Officer Lindy Greene on "Violence"

There has lately been quite a bit of controversy regarding the topic of violence as a potential strategy in the animal rights movement. This is a subject that will be inherently conflictual and contentious - but it needs to be addressed. Even the ALF - whose guidelines require taking measures to prevent harming any life, animal or human - have recently employed arson or explosives in the commission of underground direct actions. Groups like the Revolutionary Cells, the Justice Department, and the Animal Rights Militia do not disallow violence as a legitimate and morally justifiable tactic.

Animal rights activists are innately compassionate people who respect life. Violence of any kind runs counter to their natural dispositions. That is precisely why they are who and what they are. But the continuous and escalating abuse - particularly in the vivisection venues - has become so unbearable and untenable for some that their shattered hearts and irreconcilable moral outrage inescapably compel them to retaliate with increasing levels of vehemence. Still, violence for any animal rights activist would surely be a last resort - never undertaken lightly.

It is to its immense credit that the animal rights movement has been thus far so eminently able to remain non-violent in the face of such pervasive and ignoble abuse of innocent, defenseless sentient beings tortured and murdered - in vivisection and product-testing labs, on fur and factory farms, in circuses and at rodeos, in municipal shelters, and on the Canadian ice floes - for fraudulent science, fashion, the palate, entertainment, and industrial rendition.

The animal rights movement seems to have three segments - welfarist / rescue, above-ground / public, and underground / illegal. Considerable ideological debate reigns regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of each of these advocacy purviews - and this has invited friction, divisiveness, and infighting. The welfare and rescue arm seeks to help individual animals by bailing them from shelters and securing legislative changes that provide better treatment or kinder methods of death. The above-ground faction employs an abolitionist approach and usually avails itself of the public demonstration in order to raise awareness of animal issues. The underground element strives to directly liberate animals from places of abuse and to inflict economic damage upon those who profit from and are responsible for such abuse.

Individual activists have always had to take into account their own comfort levels, personal resources, and philosophical perspectives in discovering and determining where along the strategic continuum they will elect to fall. Each arena confers its attendant complement of disappointments and rewards. The rescuer rejoices over the ones saved - but sadly contemplates those left behind. The welfarist is glad that the lab animal has a toy or the laying hen some additional cage space - but suffers the despair of knowing they will still live short, painful lives and die brutal, unsung deaths. The above-ground, legal protester enjoys the feelings of empowerment and connection standing shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow activists - but must expect success at the expense of protracted campaigns and law enforcement heat. The underground activist knows the elation of releasing wild, and rehoming domestic, animals - but endures the ever-nigh fear of arrest and incarceration.

If we can glance for a moment back through the lens of history, we will see that all social justice movements have contained their more "radical" or "extreme" elements. In fact, they most likely would not have succeeded without those "fringe" factions - and the same may ultimately prove true of the animal rights movement. From the Sons of Liberty who participated in the Boston Tea Party to protest taxation without representation and British mercantilism; through the Underground Railroad Conductors who

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Lindy Greene on "Violence"

liberated black slaves from the Southern plantations; to the Suffragettes who used arson in their quest to obtain the feminine vote, we observe that sociopolitical progress has been achieved exactly because some have been willing to circumvent or break the law. All of these people - whom we today adulate as visionaries and freedom fighters - were labeled "terrorists" in their own time periods.

People typically have no problem with violence used in defense of humans. No one would claim that the Allied Forces were violent when they battled the Germans to dismantle the Nazi concentration camps. But people do have a problem with violence in defense of animals - who are the victims of a holocaust no less malignant and monstruous than that unleashed by the Third Reich. What does this imply? That the suffering of animals is less important than that of humans? That species membership is a valid criterion for placing someone outside the circle of moral compassion and beyond the reach of effective defense? That the lives of torturers and murderers are more intrinsically valuable than those of their victims? It seems, unfortunately, to be an unattractive and ineluctable facet of human nature that the oppressors - luxuriating in the perks of power and privilege - are not motivated by courteous correspondence or emotional entreaty to make concessions to those whom they oppress. Such virtually always must be coerced with the threat - or actuality - of acute physical force. Indeed, it took a Revolutionary War to throw off the yoke of a tyrannical British king; a Civil War to force the plantation masters to free their slaves; and a World War to shut off the flow of Zyklon B at Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen.

Does ineffective action not constitute another form (albeit indirect) of violence? It would seem to suggest tacit cooperation or collusion. It sends the message, "You have nothing to fear from us. We have no intention of launching any kind of serious opposition against you. Keep doing what you're doing - secure in the knowledge that the most you can expect from us is a candlelight vigil, tabling event, banner drop, some street theater, a few polite letters, and a peaceful picket." We congratulate ourselves for "not sinking to their level" and "occupying the moral high ground," while the animals - whom we claim to represent - continue to suffer atrocities undreamed of even by Adolph Hitler.

So, what is the answer for the animals? When we come up with a supremely creative and effective legal tactic - such as secondary or tertiary targeting - the authorities froth at the mouth to quash it and jail its originators. "SHACtivism" was totally above-ground, which ironically enabled the government and its corporate henchmen to identify and cherry pick seven activists for persecution and prosecution. (For obvious reasons, they have a much harder row to hoe with clandestine underground activists.) Okay, then. If animal rights activists begin to engage in violence, the jackboots will have no one to blame but themselves. John F. Kennedy said it quite eloquently: "When you make peaceful protest impossible, you make violent revolution inevitable." When legitimate channels of redress of grievances are blocked or punished - or when working through the system produces negligible results - people get frustrated. And when their frustration reaches intolerable limits, the consequences are predictable. Yet we never seem to learn that lesson. From antiquity to modernity, the tyrants continue to let us know that they will not budge unless forced. And when the force finally comes, they act surprised and victimized.

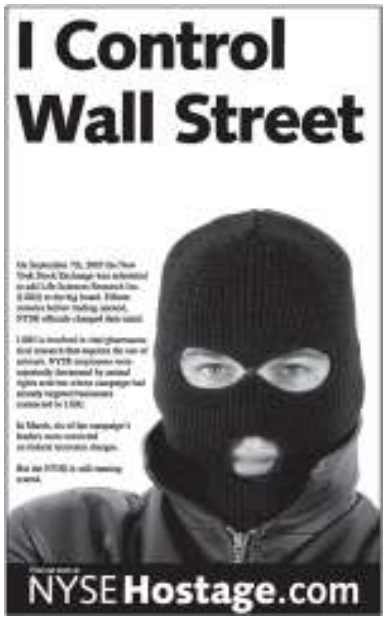
This author would suspect that most activists have ambivalent feelings toward violence. Who among us hasn't secretly wished the same experiments visited on the vivisectors who wantonly torture innocent animals and retard true medical progress for humans? Who among us hasn't privately fantasized about an anonymous vigilante animal rights cell that would magically rise up to mete out glacial justice to those who bludgeon newborn harp seals just so that some hirsute human pelt princess can be villous in Versace? Fess up! We've all gleefully indulged in such musings and reveries!

We live in a topsy-turvy milieu where "researchers" can addict animals to crystal meth; "toxicologists" can lethally poison 500 animals a day; fur "farmers" can skin animals alive; "shelters" can put down tens of thousands of animals every year; and the President (who by his very own definition of the term is a terrorist) can spy on his own citizens, commit genocide against the civilians of another sovereign nation, and - in defiance of Constitutional and international law - torture prisoners of war. But those who become disillusioned with penning polite posts to their Congressional representatives, making a few insignificant changes in the laws, and picketing - and who opt, instead, to engage in illegal direct action - are deemed the "criminals" and "terrorists."

Recognizing that violence may be morally justifiable does not necessarily equate to desiring or advocating it. Animal rights activists don't really want to hurt anyone. They just want the abuse to stop. Analogously, one can acknowledge that a despotic government should be overthrown - while simultaneously dreading, and seeking alternatives to, revolution.

On the other hand, there exists the moral obligation to objectively examine and realistically appraise whether the tactics of a social justice movement are...well...obtaining the social justice it purports to seek. Increasing numbers of animals are being gratuitously tortured in the labs, while millions that could be funneled into valid and progressive research are diverted to the bank accounts of vivisectors to provide them with luxurious homes and fancy cars. We had to confront and accept the fact that no amount of "diplomacy" or "good will" was going to convince His Majesty to grant the colonists their independence; the Confederate landed gentry to relinquish its free labor; or der Reichsfuhrer to stop herding Jews into gas chambers.

If someone were torturing or murdering your spouse, child, sibling, or parent, would you politely ask him to stop? Or would you use whatever force was necessary to disable him? If you were being tortured inside a lab, what would you want others to do? Stand outside and leaflet - or tear down the walls to get you out? Can peaceful approaches accomplish our goals? Or must they be inevitably strongarmed?



Advertisement appearing recently in the New York Times and Washington Post, depicting the effects of the campaign to stop animal cruelty at Huntingdon Life Sciences. HLS shares were delisted from the NY Stock Exchange last October after activists threatened protests.

"The North American Animal Liberation Press Office is a non-profit organization working to expose animal exploitation and oppression in the media. This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge. The Animal Liberation Press Officers do not engage in illegal activities, nor do they know any individuals who do. Rather, the Press Office receives and posts communiqués from anonymous parties and provides comment to the media.

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InThis Issue:

- **The "Animal Enterprise Protection Act": New, Improved, ACLU Approved** by Steven Best, Ph.D.
- **Interview with Jailed Animal Liberationist Peter Young**
- **Will Potter on The Chilling Effect on Activism**
- **The *Satya* Interview with Rod Coronado**
- **Confession of a former hunter from Sevnica (Slovenia)**
- **Worth The Cost** By Tom Fetters
- **Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act**

The latest issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter is filled with some important information on recent developments in the world of activism and animal liberation. Also, as with every issue, movement warriors speak out about direct action and the struggle against the oppression of non-human animals.

Shortly before ending their final session in November, the US Congress passed the latest version of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). In a pathetic attempt to further criminalize the actions of those who fight on behalf of oppressed and exploited animals, the US government instead sent a clear message to animal liberation forces: Focus your activities on clandestine liberation activities, since we will impose ever-harsher penalties on those who utilize effective forms of legal protest. No one in the underground cares what ridiculous laws are on the books to protect those who abuse animals; everything the underground does is illegal already under an outdated, speciesist system of laws formulated by rich white male humans to benefit rich white male humans. Read a provocative and insightful analysis this issue by Dr. Steven Best, as well evidence that the liberation movement is as active as ever.

As with all liberation struggles, both historically and concurrently, the struggle for animal liberation is not going away until non-human animals are free from human exploitation, suffering and oppression. We encourage everyone with any compassion for species besides their own to join the struggle, in whatever way one can.

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" and as "terrorist" with no attention paid to the suffering that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also tries to provide a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

The "Animal Enterprise Protection Act": New, Improved, and ACLU Approved

by Steven Best, Ph.D.

Welcome to the post-constitutional America, where defense of animal rights and the earth is a terrorist crime.

In 1992, a decade before the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, animal exploitation groups such as the National Association for Biomedical Research successfully lobbied Congress to pass a federal law called the Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA). This legislation created the new crime of "animal enterprise terrorism," and laid out hefty sentences and fines for any infringement. The law applies to anyone who "intentionally damages or causes the loss of any property" of an "animal enterprise" (research facilities, pet stores, breeders, zoos, rodeos, circuses, furriers, animal shelters, and the like), or who causes an *economic loss* of any kind. The AEPA defines an "animal rights or ecological terrorist organization" as "two or more persons organized for the purpose of supporting any politically motivated activity intended to obstruct or deter any person from participating in any activity involving animals or an activity involving natural resources." The act criminalizes actions that obstruct "any lawful activity involving the use of natural resources with an economic value."

Like the category of "domestic terrorism" that is a keystone in the USA PATRIOT Act attack on civil liberties, the frightening thing about the AEPA is its strategic vagueness that subsumes any and every form of protest and demonstration against exploitative industries to a criminal act, specifically, to a *terrorist* act. Thus, the actions of two or more people can be labeled terrorists if they leaflet a circus, protest an experimental lab, block a road to protect a forest, do a tree-sit, or block the doors of a fur store. Since, under the purview of the AEPA, any action that interferes with the profits and operations of animal and environmental industries, even boycotts and whistle-blowing could be criminalized and denounced as terrorism. On the sweeping interpretations of such legislation, Martin Luther King, Mahatmas Gandhi, and Cesar Chavez would today be vilified and imprisoned as terrorists, since the intent of their principled boycott campaigns was precisely to cause "economic damage" to unethical businesses. And since the AETA, like the legal system in general, classifies animals as "property," their "theft" (read: *liberation*) is unequivocally defined as a terrorist offense.

There already are laws against sabotage and property destruction, so isn't the AEPA just a redundant piece of legislation? No – not once understands its hidden agenda which strikes at the heart of the Bill of Rights. The real purpose of the AEPA is to protect animal and earth exploitation industries from protest and criticism, not property destruction and "terrorism." The AEPA redefines vandalism as ecoterrorism, petty lawbreakers as societal menaces, protestors and demonstrators as domestic terrorists, and threats to their blood money as threats to national security. Powerful economic and lobbying forces, they seek immunity from criticism, to intimidate anyone contemplating protest against them, and to dispatch their opponents to prison.

Free Speech on Trial: The SHAC 7

Hovering over activists' heads like the sword of Damocles for over a decade, the AEPA dropped in March, 2006, with the persecution and conviction of seven members of a direct action group dedicated to closing down the world's most notorious animal-testing lab, Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Exercising their First Amendment rights, activists from the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign ran a completely legal and highly effective campaign against HLS, driving them to the brink of bankruptcy. Alarmed by the new form of animal rights militancy, HLS and the biomedical research lobby commanded special sessions with Congress to ban SHAC campaigns (can you recall the last time animal rights activists and vegans held a special session of Congress to voice their demands against animal exploiters?). Using the AEPA, HLS successfully prosecuted the "SHAC 7," who currently are serving prison

Animal Enterprise Terrorism (continued)

sentences up to six years.

After the SHAC 7 conviction, David Martosko, the noxious research director of the Center for Consumer Freedom and a fierce opponent of animal rights, joyously declared: “This is just the starting gun." Indeed, corporations and legislators continue to press for even stronger laws against animal rights and environmental activism, as the Bush administration encloses the nation within a vast web of surveillance and a militarized garrison.

In September 2006, the US senate unanimously passed a new version of the AEPA (S3990), significantly renamed the “Animal Enterprise *Terrorism* Act” (AE*T*A). To prevent critical discussion, the Senate fast-tracked the bill without hearings or debate, and just before adjourning for the election recess. In November 2006, the House approved the bill (HR 4239), and President Bush obligingly signed it into law. Beyond the portentous change in name, the new and improved version extends the range of legal prosecution of activists, updates the law to cover Internet campaigns, and enforces stiffer penalties for “terrorist” actions. Created to stop the effectiveness of the SHAC-style tactics that biomedical companies had habitually complained about to Congress, the AETA makes it a criminal offense to interfere not only with so-called “animal enterprises” directly, but also with third-party organizations such as insurance companies, law firms, and investment houses that do business with them.

Thus, the Senate version of the bill expands the law to include “any property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with an animal enterprise.” The chain of relations, like the application of the law, extends possibly to the point of infinity. As journalist Will Potter notes, “The clause broadens the scope of legislation that is already overly broad.” This problem is compounded further with additional vague concepts such as criminalize actions that create “reasonable fear” in the targets of protest, making actions like peaceful home demonstrations likely candidates for “ecoterrorism.”

Updated and fortified, the basic purpose of the AETA is to make it a terrorist crime publishable by imprisonment to cause any “animal enterprise” (and its supporting companies) to suffer a loss of profit, whether through sabotage (“property damage”) or by legal activities such as peaceful protests, consumer boycotts, and media campaigns (“economic damage”). AETA sentences first time violators up to six months in jail and $10,000 in fines, and a second offense may earn one up to 18 months in prison and a $25,000 fine. Seems non-violent, civil disobedience can be quite costly these days, earning burdensome fines, prison time, and the stigma of “terrorism.” The penalties escalate from there for acts that produce a "reasonable fear" of bodily harm or yield actual physical harm, even though the use of violence is unprecedented in the US animal rights movement.

"It's depressing to know that, just because of our beliefs involving animals, we are going to be branded terrorists if we protest," said Lori Nitzel, a Madison attorney and executive director of Alliance for Animals, a statewide group that pledges nonviolence. As the Equal Justice Alliance aptly summarizes the main problems with the AETA:

- It is excessively broad and vague.
- It imposes disproportionately harsh penalties.
- It effectively brands animal advocates as ‘terrorists’ and denies them equal protection.
- It effectively brands civil disobedience as ‘terrorism’ and imposes severe penalties.
- It has a chilling effect on all forms of protest by endangering free speech and assembly.
- It interferes with investigation of animal enterprises that violate federal laws.
- It detracts from prosecution of real terrorism against the American people.”

An Army of One

A sole voice of dissent in Congress, Representative Dennis Kucinich (D–Ohio) stated that the bill compromises civil rights and threatens to "chill" free speech. Virtually alone in examining the issue from the perspective of the victims rather than victimizers, Kucinich said: "Just as we need to protect people’s right to conduct their work without fear of assault, so too this Congress has yet to address some fundamental ethical principles with respect to animals. How should animals be treated humanely? This is a debate that hasn't come here."

In response to Kucinich’s concerns, Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) stated that subsection (e) in the Senate bill, “rules of construction,” explicitly claims to protect legal protest actions, but Kucinich fails to counter that this minor clause conflicts with, and hardly counters, the overwhelming emphasis of the AETA, which is to criminalize any actions that cause “loss of profits” to a research lab, zoo, circus, breeder, or any other type of “animal enterprise.”

With appreciation for Kucinich’s remarks, one finds a much more trenchant analysis in Will Potter’s analysis of the AETA, Potter underscores numerous evasions, disingenuous clauses, and logical inconsistencies. Addressing Sensenbrenner’s attempt to silence Kucinich on the question of First Amendment protections, Potter unravels the semantic chicanery and points out that:

> [S]ome lawmakers adamantly maintained that “damages” means physical damage to physical property, and not the “loss of profits,” as defined by “economic damage.” If that’s the case, why does the penalty section spell out sentences for “non-violent physical obstruction,” and for a crime that “does not instill in another the reasonable fear of serious bodily injury or death” and “results in *no* economic damage or bodily injury”? If this bill only targets property destruction and violence, which by definition would have to cause economic damage or instill fear, how does the penalty section include sentences for crimes that do neither? …Lawmakers could spell out the definition of “damage,” and note that `economic damage’ (including the loss of profits) only applies to the penalty section of the legislation. In other words, spell out that the offense must include physically damaging property, but penalties for that can take into account the amount of impact that property destruction had on a corporation’s “loss of profits.”

ACLU Betrayal

One of the most unfortunate aspects of the passing of this bill was the failure of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge it. The ACLU did indeed write a letter to Congress about the passing of the AETA, to caution against conflate illegal and legal protest, but the organization failed to challenge the real terrorism perpetuated by animal and earth exploitation industries, and ultimately consented to their worldview and validity.

In an October 30, 2006 letter to Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee F. James Sensenbrenner and Ranking Member John Conyers, the ACLU writes that it “does not oppose this bill, but believes that these minor changes are necessary to make the bill less likely to chill or threaten freedom of speech.” Beyond proposed semantic clarifications, the ACLU mainly warns against broadening the law to include legal activities such as boycotts: “Legitimate expressive activity may result in economic damage…. Care must therefore be taken in penalizing economic damage to avoid infringing upon legitimate activity.”

Thus, unlike dozens of animal protection groups who adamantly reject the AETA *en toto*, the ACLU “does not oppose the bill.” In agreement with corporate interests, the ACLU assures the government it “does not condone violence or threats.” It thereby dodges the complex question of the legitimacy of sabotage against exploitative industries. The ACLU uncritically accepts (1) the corporate-state definition of “violence” as

Animal Enterprise Terrorism (continued)

intentional harm to *property*, (2) the legal definition of animals as "property," and (3) the use of the T-word to demonize animal liberationists rather than animal exploiters. Ultimately, the ACLU sides with the government against activists involved in illegal forms of liberation or sabotage, a problematic alliance in times of global ecocide. The ACLU thereby defends *the property rights* of industries to torture and slaughter billions of animals over the *moral rights* of animals to bodily integrity and a life free from exploitation and gratuitous violence

The ACLU failed to ask the tough questions journalist Will Potter raised during his May 23, 2006 testimony before the House Committee holding a hearing on the AETA, and to follow Potter in identifying key inconsistencies in bill. Does the ACLU really think that their proposed modifications would be adequate to guarantee that the AETA doesn't trample on legal rights to protest? Are they completely ignorant and indifferent to the fact that the AEPA was just used to send the SHAC 7 to jail for the crime of protesting fraudulent research and heinous killing? And just where was the ACLU during the SHAC 7 trial, one of the most significant First Amendment cases in recent history? Why does the ACLU only recognize violations of the Constitution against human rights advocates? Do they think that animal rights activists are not citizens? Do they not recognize that tyrannical measures used against animal advocates today will be used against all citizens tomorrow? How can the world's premier civil rights institution is blatantly speciesist and bigoted toward animals? *Why will they come to the defense of the Ku Klux Klan but not the SHAC 7?* The ACLU silence in the face of persecution of animal rights activists unfortunately is typical of most civil rights organizations that are too bigoted and myopic to grasp the implications of state repression of animal rights activists for human rights activists and all forms of dissent.

Dispatches from a Police State

As a sign of things to come, in December 2006, a Portland, Oregon fur store owner urged the state to use the AETA against protestors of his store who "terrorized" him and affected his business. Corporate exploiters and Congress have taken this nation down a perilous slippery slope, where it becomes difficult to distinguish between illegal and legal forms of dissent, between civil disobedience and terrorism, between PETA and Al Qaeda, and between liberating chickens from a factory farm and flying passenger planes into skyscrapers. The state protects the corporate exploiters who pull their purse strings and stuff their pockets with favors and cash.

While animal rights activists are caught in the crosshairs of state repression, all forms of dissent have been targeted, and a broad pattern is emerging with undeniable boldness and clarity, alerting us to the systematic and full-scale assault the government has waged against the Bill of Rights. Recent documents obtained by NBC News, the ACLU, and other organizations show that the Defense Department, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Department of Homeland Security, and local police forces have unleashed a dragnet of surveillance on all manner of protest groups, from anti-war activists to vegetarians, from children to grandmothers. Whether in the streets, military recruiting centers, classrooms, or churches, the government has monitored dissenting individuals and groups; they follow peaceful citizens, write down their names and license plates, and enter their information into massive databases, all organized under the rubric of security threats and terrorists.

The USA PATRIOT Act, signed into law in October 2001 and renewed in December 2005, overrides the Constitution and grants the state authority to unleash warrantless wiretaps and information searches (such as what materials one checks out at the local library). The newly bolstered PATRIOT Act allows secret service agents wider latitude to charge protestors at public events (such as political conventions and the Olympics) with disruptive behavior (if the President or any other person protection by the Secret Service is in attendance), with a possible penalty of six months to a year in prison.

Despite government denials, the USA PATRIOT is being used to curtail freedoms of US citizens. Among other things, the PATRIOT Act has been used to investigate students expressing anti-government views in schools, to harass and jail activists, to surveil doctors and scientists warning about the threat of bioterrorism in the US, to subpoena a university professor to appear before a federal grand jury that will consider bioterrorism charges against him for using biology equipment in his art, and to persecute an investigative journalist for unauthorized filming of an Exxon Oil refinery.

The government is collecting information about legal exercise of the First Amendment that goes far beyond any legitimate concern for actual terrorism and verges toward creating a garrison state that criminalizes freedom of thought and speech. None of it is accidental or random; it's all part of a pattern, of the MO of a paranoid Police State peddling fear and controlling dissent.

The bogus "war on terror" has served as a highly-effective propaganda and bullying device to ram through Congress and the courts a pro-corporate, anti-environmental, authoritarian agenda. Using vague, catch-all phrases such as "enemy combatants" and "domestic terrorists," the Bush administration has rounded up and tortured thousands of non-citizens (detaining them indefinitely in military tribunals without right to a fair trial) and surveilled, harassed, and imprisoned citizens who dare to challenge the government or corporate system it protects and represents.

In yet another assault on the Constitution, in October 2006 the Bush administration signed into law the Military Commissions Act which denies habeas corpus rights to all non-citizens suspected of being threats to national security. This act is part and parcel of their self-aggrandized powers to torture detainees and flout the Geneva Convention. Whereas the Military Commissions Act targets non-citizens, many legal experts believe that it also targets American citizens, authorizing the president to seize American citizens, declare them "enemy combatants," strip them of all legal rights, and thrown them into a military. According to the *Washington Post* reports, "The Bush administration is developing a parallel legal system in which terrorism suspects -- U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike -- may be investigated, jailed, interrogated, tried and punished without legal protections guaranteed by the ordinary system, lawyers inside and outside the government say."

The massive police resources of the US state are being used far more to thwart domestic dissent than to improve homeland insecurity. While Big Brother is obsessed with the email, conversations, and meetings of people who know a thing or two about the duties of citizenship, the airlines, railways, subways, city centers, and nuclear power plants remain completely vulnerable to attack.

Hour by hour, day by day, our First and Forth Amendment rights (among others) are hemorrhaging and bleeding away into the sinkhole of corporate-state tyranny. As I write, there are new reports that the Bush Administration has collected reams of information on every airline passenger, and assigned each one a secret security rating (which can never know or protest), based on criteria such as the number of one-way trips one takes and preferred meal choices. Displaying the fascist poison spreading throughout the nation, former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, launched a speaking campaign in November 2006 to persuade lawmakers that free speech rights must increasingly give way to security needs.

This issue goes beyond Republicans vs. Democrats, as the latter have hardly distinguished themselves on civil liberties since 9/11 and we can expect little improvement in the future, even if they control the executive and legislative branches of government (it is significant indeed to note that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) co-sponsored the AETA). For what we have witnessed in the post-9/11 era is a *sea-change* in political thought, one that is rapidly constructing an authoritarian society where we are neither secure nor free. From coast to coast, citizens are resisting (such as efforts to declare the USA PATRIOT Act unconstitutional and to impeach Bush), but we are nowhere a critical mass yet. As citizens, it us our profound obligation to counter the forces of darkness descending upon us, and to

Animal Enterprise Terrorism (continued)

begin building a truly democratic culture.

Web Resources

SHAC 7: www.shac7.com
Stop AETA: www.stopaeta.org
Equal Justice Alliance: http://noaeta.org/
ACLU FBI Spy Files: www.aclu-co.org/spyfiles/JTTFdocuments.htm
Greenscare: http://www.greenscare.org/
GreenIsTheNewRed: Greenisthenewred.com
Thomas Legislative Guide: http://thomas.loc.gov/

An Interview with Animal Liberation Prisoner Peter Young

First off, I want to thank you for the statement you gave at your final court hearing. Being in that courtroom and hearing it was one of the most inspiring experiences of my life, and I think a lot of the other folks thought the same. I don't know if you noticed, but there were so many people there supporting you that we had to sit on each other's laps! What were you thinking during the hearing when all those fur farm scum were talking? Were you happy to see so many supporters?

Coming through the door into the courtroom that day was like stepping through the looking glass. From the cold concrete-and-steel cell with a dozen convicts exchanging tactics on the best way to dispose of a weapon, 20 feet east to through an obliquitous door to a cheering crowd. It was a tremendous send off to prison. Most impressive was hearing later that prior to the proceeding, the crowd recognized that having 50+ animal liberation supporters together was an opportunity not to be wasted, and that an anti-fur industry demo was held outside the courthouse. This, I was told, was covered by the media and broadcast on Madison news=stations that evening. It is in this way I feel these human-centered efforts are best utilized - as something to be capitalized on to bring attention to even greater injustices. Even as a prisoner, I struggle with exactly how many resources and people we should devote to prisoner support , something that affects such a relative few, while billions die behind the scenes. Yet from the experience of incarceration over the last year, I have noticed the tremendous mobilizing effect of people being imprisoned for acts of conscience.

I would say that over half of the mail I receive is not from people taking time out of fighting for animal liberation to write me a letter of support, but form timid vegetarians who had never considered veganism or aggressive action in defense of non-human animals. And perhaps through my case these things will become part of their lives, even something at the forefront. This is what is important for me to see in any support effort taken on my behalf - that my situation be used as a springboard to more important things, or a gateway issue on the way to bigger fights. This is not to say in any way that prisoner issues are not important, only that they are best addressed in conjunction with issues of wider scopes. This was what was most wonderful about my sentencing - the demo, the statements on the conditions animals endure made to the media, and even just the networking which occurred at the after-sentencing party. I would never wish for someone to hold a bake sale defense fund benefit without putting "Why Vegan?" pamphlets on the table, I would never want an article written on my case without explaining the injustice which drove my actions, and I would not have wanted 50 people to drive from out of town to attend my sentencing without disturbing the peace. For efforts this side of a UW lab raid, I think it was an afternoon well spent.

And while the savages testified, my primary thought was that after all the blood they've spilled, the lives they've taken, after I am dragged to prison and they leave court to kill again, after it all - we will get the last laugh. the demise of their barbaric reign will happen in my lifetime, and I will be there to spit on its grave.

You've talked about being inspired and informed by punk and hardcore music, particularly vegan straightedge music. What does vegan straightedge mean to you today? How have your feelings about it changed over the years?

The vegan straightedge scene is directly responsible for the course my life has taken. Although I sit in a federal prison, this is nonetheless the highest of compliments. All praise and credit is given to this movement for providing the spark that ignited an internal revolution in me many years ago. One from which I would never recover. It was bands like Culture, Framework, Green Rage, and Vegan Reich which confronted me with the crime of my inaction. Patches and singalongs are never enough. The day I mark as my joining of the animal liberation movement I was skating the streets of Seattle, listening to Raid, and something in me broke. The fate that would have awaiting myself and the animals had I continued as an inactive vegan stood to be far more horrific than prison. Hardcore taught me urgency. It taught me anger, and it taught me to point fingers. Without these elements, little is accomplished. I remain vegan and straightedge to this day.

Straightedge remains to me a crucial line in the sand, holding back degenerative effects of drugs and alcohol, and just as important, the degenerative effects of the culture that surrounds them. The numbing effects of these substances and the destructionary nature of the party scene make intoxication not just "a great way to have fun", but an effective way to keep large numbers of people docile and ineffective. As is the case with television, computer games, and various fashionable internet networking sites. While I myself am not entirely guiltless, it continues to be a disquieting trend, watching people with passion and conviction drown in artificial distractions, limiting their potential and dealing out precious moments of their lives to the transient sensory pleasure of marijuana, "The O.C.":, and scene message boards. I'd like us to pretend our lives are worth living and not merely passing through.

And veganism is of course the single greatest step one can take to end the single greatest injustice in the history of our world - the 10 billion animals murdered each year for food, clothing, and science. This is not a symbolic boycott but a movement.

Vegan straightedge today... With the experience of 12 years of observation and participation, I have one major criticism of the movement. It is something that has always been there, an unmentionable flaw that few care to highlight, but it must be said, and I say it not our of contempt but hope for our evolution: The problem with vegan straightedge is that everybody is talking and nobody is walking. The problem with vegan straightedge is a problem of credibility. The most visible and influential people in our movement are those in the bands promoting vegan straightedge politics. To look honestly at those spokespersons of both past and present, I believe we can make the honest assessment that we are not putting our most credible foot forward. The face that we are showing our newer adherents and the world at large is, truthfully, setting the bar far too low.

Those making up the face of vegan straightedge are not making themselves credible as vanguards of a new movement. Consequently, their armchair approach sets a low bar for vegan straightedge as a whole. We are too comfortable making our music our activism. Even the consumption of the music gives the illusion of participation in a liberation movement. It would bring our fight to another level to see the most visible faces of vegan straightedge take their politics into the world and start making waves. Organize demos, open rescues, creative outreach efforts. With the influence newer bands have over newer adherents, they could build an incredible activist movement locally by fliering for upcoming activist events outside of the hardcore scene. The ripple effect through the scene of seeing band members back up their lyrics with action would inspire countless others to do the same. When politics are limited to lyrics and lifestyle, we have a scene. When we take those politics into the world and start to tear it down - we have a movement. Let's make vegan

Peter Young Interview (continued)

straightedge a movement.

How can we both acknowledge and transcend the conservative and moralistic limitations of vsxe in the past (homophobia, anti-choice, tough guy shit)?

No one should live life looking backwards. No one, no scene. The baggage we bear is dead weight, and should be discarded. If we speak and live in opposition to that which we despise, I see no value in dwelling on mistakes of others from our past, for we are reborn. Remember we are speaking of statements and songs from very young people pressed onto cheap plastic and poorly copied publications 10+ years back, no regrettable military offensives against beer drinking civilians or generations of imposed slavery against homosexuals. We can move on from Abnegation. Picking at the scab prevents it from healing.

Why the vsxe scene lives in terminal guilt over Vegan Reich going Muslim while scenes have much greater points of shame on their records is not clear to me. Before dwelling on a 15 year old article in Vanguard, let's strive for consistency and remember all scenes have, on their records, many a blemish. Punk rock began with the Sex Pistols and Ramones and has recovered just fine. '88 Hardcore was about as subversive as a Boy Scout not finishing his brussel sprouts, and for this we have long since atoned. I don't wish for the ghost of a bad Chokehold interview to haunt me when claiming vsxe any more than I want to live under the dark cloud of Tony Hawk's "Got Milk" ad when skating to the beach. This is not to say lock the closet where we hold our skeletons. Just that we might do better to stop kicking a long-dead corpses and rebuild our threat from the ground up.

I cannot move on without stating that I feel 2 of your 3 items from the Vegan Straightedge Hall of Shame are greatly overstated. I have never known homophobia to exist outside of Hardline, a movement the size of which was always greatly exaggerated. Forgive me for never being the most accomplished show going scene socialite, but my window into Hardcore has always presented to me nothing but a staunch anti-homophobia stance. It is furthermore my take that the "tough guy" tag is grossly overused, applied unfairly to 1) militant animal liberation or sxe lyrics, and 2) band members whose only crime was dressing clean cut, being on the heavy side, and looking mean on stage. There is no question that "tough guy" dancing was and is a problem, one I would like to see cleansed from the scene forever. I'm as intolerant of obnoxious machismo as anyone I've ever known (and my mental health in prison suffers greatly because of it), but I can think of only rare examples of bands or people being called "tough guy" where I didn't feel it was misapplied. Again, forgive me for perhaps not socializing enough to get an accurate read on things. However, I just can't get behind labeling Earth Crisis lab rad lyrics as "tough guy". I just call those awesome.

In short: Reject, Reinvent, Rebuild.

How does animal liberation relate to other struggles (for example, anti-prison or eco-defense campaigns)?

They are joined as being among the most pressing injustices we face. At their base, these are timeless struggles. While we could spend lifetimes to bring together all liberation movements, I abandoned this agenda long ago. These struggles are linked, and it pains me to see people who do not extend their awareness outside of one issue, but our time is short and lives are being lost. No longer do I have faith in the logic of an argument bringing large numbers to a unified struggle. The tireless push to "bridge movements" has been a colossal failure every time, resulting only in inviting halfhearted activists into circles they are not committed to.

Through our unity dream, we serve to water down struggles with fraudulent people, adding weak links to the chain. Anyone who moves a struggle forward should be welcome, those who hold it back should be shown a different door. While this position is terribly unpopular, it is the product of much experience in failure at forcing counterproductive efforts for the sake of "bridging movements". I have seen the folly of bringing new wave anarchists into organizing sessions for animal rights demonstrations and other such strategic errors made with good intentions. And from it I've seen the effects of pouring tar on a decently running machine. Arguments over "consensus", static over an imprecise gender or racial breakdown of participants in an action... at what cost do we pursue unity? There should be nothing but inclusiveness, respect, and cordial exchange of ideas right up to the point of action. and when it's time to make things happen, we all must be on the same page. I wish for everyone to see the connection between the struggles you mention, but more than this, I wish for them to fight those struggles in which they will be most effective. At the end of the day, I care not for holding hands with everyone who maybe doesn't think Bush is a wonderful human being. At the end of the day, I care about saving lives. At the end of the day, I care about what works.

In our correspondence you've talked about getting a lot of unsolicited mail from around the country and around the world. What are some of the funniest or strangest letters you've received?

There is so much. By my rough math, we're speaking of 1300+ pieces of mail over the last year of my incarceration. As to where to start, I'm at a lose. There are those pieces that are disturbing: an old women's photo of her ferret dressed up as a small child, another who felt I would see it as a sign of affection that she dug into my life so deep she knew what high school I went to and where my father lived. There are those that bring me back 10 years: the letters from the vocalist of one of my favorite mid-90's vegan straightedge bands, and my first girlfriend who I have not spoken to since 1996. There are those I would rather have never received: word that a friend has died, the AP story from which I learned 11 activists had been indicted for actions including the torching of a slaughterhouse. There are those I can only humbly call flattering: an attendee of the New Age Records showcase reporting that during their reunion show Outspoken had dedicated their last song to me and a myspace message from one of the better know "girl groups" requesting a benefit shirt to wear every night on tour. There are those that learn the shortest route to the trash can: every person who ever haughtily demanded to know what I was doing in a Starbucks the night of my arrest, and a "let's be friends" letter from the man who had given sanctuary to codefendant and snitch Justin Samuel in San Diego for years. And there are those I don't know what to do with: all those from people writing to inform me that the FBI had just come to their door seeking information about me, to the woman who had assaulted her roommate and went to jail for one month when he tore up a letter from me. One thing will be certain for the remainder of my imprisonment: the 5:15 mail call will always be the best part of my day, and whether joyous or revolting - it will always bring a surprise.

Finally, there have been a lot of arrests lately on the west coast related to alleged Earth & Animal Liberation Front actions, with many former activists turning snitch. What advice do you have for the prisoners who chose not to collaborate and to all the people who are working to support them?

My first advice would go not to the prisoners themselves, nor their supporters, but to the defendant's friends and affiliates. In the wake of an arrest, the essential first step must be to end the gossiping. End the speculations. Stop doing the FBI's work by feeding them even the most seemingly benign information. Discussion, even in private, travels - anything, must be urgently avoided. In prison, they call this "dry snitching" - informing on another in an indirect fashion. When the heat is on, to whisper the most insignificant rumor or fact about a person under indictment should be regarded as we would regard speaking that information directly to an FBI agent. There is too much on the line to take a liberal stance on this. Gossip can literally be a deadly weapon.

To the accused, i would offer them what I wish someone had offered me. Not a "look on the bright side", "everything will be ok" pep talk as is so often offered by well meaning supporters, but a serious breakdown of prison life and what to expect. While it may be something no one wishes to talk about , none of us are in a position to assess whether the accused can

Peter Young Interview (continued)

realistically expect to be found guilty and go to prison. Only the defendants and their attorneys can make that assessment. And many of them may in fact know they are going to prison. I hope very much that this is not the case, but it may be so. And the best thing we can do for them is demystify the next stage of their lives, be there to connect them with people who have experience in prison life and can answer questions, from what security level they can expect to be housed in, to prison etiquette, food issues, mistakes to avoid, and much more. For the NW defendants specifically, it may be too early for this topic, but there is a point where it should not be ignored. There is much I wish had been communicated to me, from the ease of eating vegan in federal prison to the generally relaxed atmosphere of federal prison.

My belief in the justness of my actions has brought, from day one, a comfort that's bigger and more important than a few years in their worst prison. Come what may. This satisfaction did not put to rest the thousands of questions I had about life in prison, questions that are certainly running through the heads of many political prisoners in jail at the moment. Were they to be given the truth, they would rest much easier. I have been on the phone this week with an activist on his way to prison, offering my 14 months of accumulated knowledge as I wish someone had done for me. No one wants to mention the possibility of prison until it's too late. This is why I will always offer myself as a resource to anyone under indictment. I will always be the person to let those people currently awaiting trial know, on the subject of prison, the fantasy is often worse than the reality.

Lastly, to the supporters working for those on the inside: please keep them informed. Nothing gets inside prison walls that you do not mail them. I would cite as my biggest complaint during my pretrial phase and on the present day that information relevant to my case was not communicated to me. From information on people being questioned about me to mainstream news articles on those on my case, I was simply kept in the dark on far too much. Please inform those on the inside of even the most minute detail pertaining to their case. If the Center for Consumer Freedom sends out a press release on their case - tell them. When someone is subpoenaed to a grand jury investigating those things they are changed with - give them their names. If a 13 year old girl in Kansas writes a poem on her livejournal profile in tribute to them - mail it in. Keep them informed. Such information will not only bring the peace of mind of knowing they are being updated on everything happening outside, the information you give them can be crucial for their defense. If the information is too sensitive to be communicated directly to a prisoner, hand deliver it to their lawyer. NEVER assume the accused knows something already. I learned of my recent South Dakota charges two weeks after the fact from a letter reading something similar to "bummer about your new charges." I'd never run to a telephone so fast in my life.

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Lexington, KY 40502

www.impassionedinsurrection.info

"In a war you have to take up arms and people will get killed, and I can support that kind of action by petrol bombing and bombs under cars, and probably at a later stage, the shooting of vivisectors on their doorsteps. It's a war, and there's no other way you can stop vivisectors." --Tim Daley, British Animal Liberation Front Leader, BBC interview, 1987

The Chilling Effect

By Will Potter

Chances are your home won't be raided by federal agents. You probably won't get hauled before a grand jury for a political witch-hunt, or rounded up and accused of "eco-terrorism." While these things are taking place, most activists will only read about them.

These heavy-handed tactics are a small part of the current crackdown on animal rights and environmental activists in the name of "eco-terrorism." In this "Green Scare," the real danger is not Senator Joseph McCarthy naming names, or cops breaking down doors: it's the subsequent fear seeping into every crevice of the movement.

Even at the height of the Red Scare, amid the blacklists and the Congressional hearings, amid the red-baiting and the rhetoric of treason, the McCarthyists rarely, if ever, preached prohibition: they didn't use their pulpit to ban subversive speech outright because they simply had no need.

The climate of fear they created, through scare-mongering and legislation more palatable for the public, had the same effect. Self-censorship, they learned, could prove even more effective than a new set of Alien and Sedition Acts.

Take the case of Lamont v. Postmaster General. There was a federal law that said anyone receiving "communist political propaganda" through the post office had to specifically authorize the delivery of each piece of mail.

The law didn't say it was illegal to send or receive communist propaganda. It just said you had to authorize it. But that has the same effect, doesn't it? You'd have to be a real nut job to voluntarily put your name on a list of folks receiving commie propaganda during the Red Scare: clueless, fearless, or a little of both. So people didn't do it.

Justice Douglas, delivering the opinion of the Supreme Court that struck down the law, wrote: "…any addressee is likely to feel some inhibition in sending for literature which federal officials have condemned as 'communist political propaganda.' The regime of this Act is at war with the 'uninhibited, robust, and wide-open' debate and discussion that are contemplated by the First Amendment."

That's what lawyers call a chilling effect. The law didn't take away people's rights, but it chilled them. It made reasonable, everyday people fearful of speaking up.

Now history repeats itself. The new enemies of the hour, the FBI's "number one domestic terrorist threat," are the animal rights and environmental movements. The new McCarthyists have taken a few pages from the Red Scare playbook, and a few from the "with us or against us" playbook of the war on terror. The architects of this Green Scare are building on a foundation of fear.

The government hasn't outlawed animal rights and environmental activism, but the green-baiting campaigns of lawmakers and corporations are starting to have the same effect.

When environmentalists are rounded up as part of "Operation Backfire," you start to wonder if you'll get hit with outlandish charges for being seen as a "leader."

When a nonviolent activist like Adam Durand gets 180 days in jail, $1,500 in fines, probation, plus 100 hours of community service, all for producing an undercover documentary about a factory farm, you start to wonder if it could happen to you.

And when the SHAC7 are convicted on "animal enterprise terrorism" charges for running a website, you start to wonder if you'll be next.

Yet, the new McCarthyists haven't confined their scare-mongering to the

The Chilling Effect (continued)

courtroom. Industry groups are getting more and more gutsy. They're taking out full-page anonymous ads in both The New York Times and The Washington Post, labeling animal rights activists as "terrorists." They're going so far as to label the recent children's movie, Hoot, "soft-core eco-terrorism" because it shows kids saving an endangered owl from developers.

Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security does not list right-wing terrorists on a list of national security threats, even though those groups have been responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing, the Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, violence against doctors, and admittedly creating weapons of mass destruction. The animal rights and environmental movements have done nothing like that.

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, passed in Congress, creates stiffer penalties than the original Animal Enterprise Protection Act, and expands its scope to include "any property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with an animal enterprise."

The vague and overly broad language of the bill includes undercover investigators and activists using civil disobedience. Supporters say it won't be used to target aboveground activists, but the penalty section spells out sentences for "non-violent physical obstruction," and for crimes that "do not instill in another the reasonable fear of serious bodily injury or death" and "result in no economic damage or bodily injury." All in a terrorism bill. The real danger of this legislation is not the stiff penalties it spells out, but the chilling effect it will have on the animal rights movement.

The repression we're seeing now may mimic many of the tactics of the Red Scare, but our response cannot. Witch-hunts will test the backbone of today's social movements, just as they did 60 years ago. But it's not enough to cowardly distance ourselves from the "eco-terrorists," as many did during the Red Scare. Condemning underground activists, or anyone charged with illegal actions, won't get you off the hook. Naming names and making loyalty oaths didn't protect activists then, and it won't protect activists now.

Activists can't just focus on their work, and wait for this to pass. It won't. At the same time, they shouldn't act like home raids and FBI harassment are badges of honor for scene points. Too many activists act as if it's selfish to worry about our civil liberties, because it takes time and effort away from the animals and the environment. The only way we're going to get through this is by coming out and confronting it head-on. That means working with anti-abortion activists, anti-war activists and others fearing they may also be targets of this scare-mongering. That means reaching out to everyone and telling them that labeling activists as terrorists wastes valuable anti-terrorism resources. That means building strong activist communities who know their rights, know how they're threatened, and know what's at stake if we acquiesce.

There's a long fight ahead. There will be more "eco-terror" legislation. There will be more arrests. And there will be more activists in need of prisoner support. Letter writing, commissary money, media outreach: work to make sure these people survive and are not written off as a casualty of a greater cause.

Supporting those that do not go to prison, though, may prove even more critical. We have to remind each other that it's okay to be afraid. We have to ensure in these supportive communities that we can speak openly and honestly about what's going on, and how to overcome it. If this fear, this hopelessness, is not confronted, it will incarcerate and incapacitate many more activists than any "eco-terrorism" legislation.

Will Potter is a freelance reporter based in Washington, D.C. He has written for publications including The Chicago Tribune and Legal Affairs, and has testified before the U.S. Congress on the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. He is the creator of GreenIsTheNewRed.com, where he blogs about history repeating itself.

The *Satya* Interview with Rod Coronado

On March 24, 2004, long-time earth and animal liberation activist **Rod Coronado** was arrested for his involvement in an Earth First! campaign against the killing and removal of mountain lions in the Sabino Canyon recreation area outside Tuscan, AZ, an area usually closed to hunting. In December 2005 he was found guilty of "conspiring to impede or injure an officer of the U.S.," a felony, "interference with a U.S. Forest Service Officer," and "aiding and abetting the depredation of government property," both misdemeanors. On August 7, 2006 Rod was sentenced to eight months in federal prison and three years of supervised release (probation) in which he is forbidden to write, publish or speak about the animal and earth liberation fronts, Earth First!, or encourage illegal activities practiced by those groups.

While serving his federal sentence, **Rod Coronado** shared with **Sangamithra Iyer**his thoughts on recent animal enterprise terrorism legislation, his changing perspectives on direct action, and the magic of Harry Potter.

Can you talk a bit about the Sabino Canyon case?
The depredation of government property stems from the alleged destruction of a mountain lion snare set in the canyon by a federal lion hunter. The trap was never damaged, only sprung, but that never came out in court. Our efforts were very public, and I served as spokesperson for the people who represented the lions. When all legal measures to stop the hunt were exhausted, AZ Earth First! was contacted by the Center for Biological Diversity to help intervene as we were the only group opposing these trophy hunts authorized by Arizona Fish and Game. I was arrested in Sabino Canyon along with a reporter from *Esquire* magazine after being chased by a helicopter and cornered by federal and state officers. We had succeeded in stopping that hunt, but learned in our trial that after media attention died down, hunters returned to the area killing four lions and capturing more.

What are your thoughts about recent federal legislation targeting animal and environmental activists? What do you think it means for the future of animal activism in this country?
This recent legislation is typical for a society that uses law enforcement as a means to resist social change while also protecting the special interests of industries with powerful friends in Washington. It reminds me of the abolitionists of the 19th century who were faced with prosecution under the Fugitive Slave Act for aiding runaway slaves, something we consider downright heroic today. Just as rich landowners were frightened at the prospect of losing slave labor, corporations today worry about the impact on their profit margins should they ever be held responsible for committing large-scale animal cruelty and environmental [destruction].

With animal welfare it is economically unfeasible to be compassionate while remaining profitable. I read about the global threat to fisheries if pollution and overfishing continue unabated, yet the fishing industry assures us everything is fine. When it comes to the environment we have a historic record of showing scarcity of a resource simply drives up the market value, fueling industries to relentlessly exploit it until total ecological and market collapse. With such a record of inaction no one should be surprised that some people become frustrated and find no other avenue besides lawlessness. If Congress truly wanted to prevent "animal enterprise terrorism" they would generate greater responsibility in managing the natural resources of the earth instead of dragging their feet when a serious environmental catastrophe is at our doorstep.

Since 9/11 the political climate makes it far too easy for actions that destroy property to be seen as a form of terrorism. In response, we can best adapt our activities towards avenues, which do not result in some of our brilliant young leaders being criminalized as terrorists. We have to shift the blame to where it belongs, with irresponsible profit-driven corporations and public policies that cater to them. At the same time we need to return to a very grassroots approach and not allow animal and environmental activism to be relegated to the work of national and international

Rod Coronado (continued)

organizations who operate as corporations themselves, capitalizing on societal concerns for animals and the environment. We need to return to a level of democracy where it's not lawyers representing our interests, but the affected communities themselves.

Has your position on direct action changed?
Yes, personally and politically. When I began my career as a direct action activist, animal rights and environmentalism were still very fringe issues to the mainstream. Now thanks in part to direct action these issues have extended to the forefront of society. We have Prime Ministers and former Vice Presidents sounding the alarm we were ringing years ago. Of course law enforcement has responded with draconian laws that categorize direct action on the same level as terrorism. Dealing with political actions against corporate interests and property more severely than most physical crimes of violence.

In my opinion, direct action in first worlds like the U.S. have served their purpose and it is time for us to evolve strategies away from a focus on what's wrong with our world and direct our energies toward what is right. Those who have been sounding the alarm now have a chance to show disenchanted citizens our vision of a peaceful, harmonic and sustainable way of living. There is a greater example to be made by us through mutual aid and cooperation, free education, organic gardening, etc. than any act that seeks to attack our destructive system.

I could continue to do what I have done for the past 20 years, but what would come of it? Martyrdom and a life sentence. No, I want to be part of the rebuilding. I want to watch my children grow and live the way I believe we should.

Do you have any regrets?
Of course, who doesn't? I regret my children suffer from my separation. I regret not having learned the things I now know before they began causing pain. I regret externalizing my unhappiness with the world onto others rather than first endeavoring to change myself. I regret having hurt people I love. But I am human and like most of us, we learn from our mistakes. I learned that nothing helps us prevent future acts of insensitivity like our past acts of insensitivity. It's just a question of whether we are courageous enough to accept what we have done wrong. If only our government could do the same.

One thing I don't regret is accepting the challenge to live in a way that doesn't make me a pawn of our political climate or a slave to the dogmatic self-defeating patriarchal worldview.

What advice do you have for fellow activists?
We make our lives the model of how we want others to live. I believe in relating to people as a counter measure to the corporate media and fear-mongers who portray us as extremists. What we represent should never be termed as extreme because nothing could be simpler than living with consideration towards others. What should be labeled extreme are political agendas at the expense of all life on earth.

All of us want to see an end to suffering, but we have to accept that many others have tried and sacrificed, often more than we ever will, only to see the injustice they fought outlive themselves. And while it is important to stand up for what we believe in, little is gained from being knocked down. Let's not do the state's work and allow our actions to resemble the terrorist acts they allege them to be. Let's embody what we represent: love, compassion, respect and peace and leave out the war, destruction and greed. People are smart. They will be able to tell the difference, but not if our actions represent those of the system we are trying to stop. It's not going to be a handful of individuals attacking the state that effects change, but the multitudes of oppressed standing in solidarity as victims of injustice. It's our job to win people over without lying to them and by offering realistic solutions they can understand and embrace.

Most importantly be happy. There is great joy to be discovered in helping others.

I understand this incarceration has been a transformative experience for you.
This time in prison has been transformative just as it would be for anyone imprisoned for their political actions or views. What I see as my current state of transformation began earlier this year when for the first time I began to reflect, not just on my political activities, but on my personal actions as well. In pursuit of my activist career, I hurt a lot of people very close to me, always keeping my "eyes on the prize" and never questioning the hypocrisy of my own actions. Last winter, the pain I was causing became too great to ignore and I was ashamed of how I had been justifying my personal behavior that was nowhere near embodying the respect, compassion and love that I have endeavored to represent. That's when I decided to "retire" from my confrontational politics and antagonistic positioning and focus on a simpler way of practicing what I want to preach. As a father and a partner in a relationship that meant working on being emotionally, spiritually and physically available to those who teach me about love more than any type of actions against violent injustice.

It's been a whole new revelation and more rewarding than any "revolutionary" action I had previously engaged in. More importantly, it taught me to live life with the great level of joy we all desperately need to survive and sustain ourselves in the coming years of turmoil.

It has also helped me find common ground with "enemies" and see that however misdirected we both might be, there is enough commonality for us to discover a mutual way of resolving conflict without violence. I no longer believe in "good vs. evil." I believe we are *all* capable of good *and* evil, it's just a matter of being accountable.

What's really sad and frustrating is not being able to convince my past opponents of my willingness to work towards change in a different way. The system is totally unforgiving and unwilling to look past my actions of before to see the potential in working together now. When I was sent to prison, I accepted the punishment, but really would have liked for Arizona Fish and Game to ask for a sentence of community service so that we both might learn an alternative form of conflict resolution that is less punitive. Still, whatever injustice I personally suffer will not sway me from extending myself to explore a different way of dealing with social and ecological problems. The system can refuse to change but I won't.

What have you enjoyed reading in prison?
I've really enjoyed J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books, which are a wonderful exploration into a parallel world where magic still exists. They are beautiful stories that remind us that more important than power and control is friendship, respect, unity and tolerance. It's funny but ever since I became a parent, I've found such inspiration in children's books. So often the heroes are those who rescue animals or risk their lives to save their loved ones—important lessons that many grown-ups could benefit from learning again.

What gives you hope?
I know there is much pain in the world. I've seen the faces of thousands of animals suffering in cages, the destruction of ancient forests…No one needs to remind us of the dark times we face. But if we are going to make it through, we are going to make it by helping one another. This world is still a wonderful place. They haven't destroyed it all yet, and there's still enough to inspire hope. We are a crazy species, but smart enough to pull ourselves out of this nosedive if we act now and stop pointing our fingers at others. We just have to hold on tight to what we love, our children, each other, the Earth and I think we will be all right.

For more information visit www.supportrod.org. To learn more about Rod, read the two-part 1997 Satya *interview "Freedom from the Cages" www.satyamag.com/interviews.html.*

Liberated in Italian ALF Raid November 2006

Confession of a former hunter from Sevnica (Slovenia)

For 37 years he was a member of the hunting family from Sevnica, for 22 years a member of its administrative board and for 12 years the president of this board and of the rifle commission. In this period he killed a great deal of animals, but four years ago he decided to quit hunting for good. Rudi Ameršek from Sevnica today says that he is a converted murderer – his opinion is that killing animals is a crime. Not spending so much time aiming his barrel at game, he has more time left for his hobby and his family. In Slovenia he is known for unique hand-made vine sculptures.

What memories do you have of your first years as a member of a hunting family?
To become a hunter I had to fulfill some conditions. The president at that time said to me: If you want to become a hunter, you must have a hunting dog! He than sold me a young of his hunting dog and I had to kill my mongrel with poisonous gas. We used poisonous gas in ampoules in many cases. We usually threw such an ampoule in front of the earth and when a fox ate or bit through it, it soon died. Fox fur was very valuable at that time and sometimes I waited in the woods for my prey the whole night. Today I am ashamed for killing animals in the past.

What happened that made you quit murdering animals?
My children from the second marriage and my present wife Slavka kept telling me for years that killing animals isn't ethical. At last they even forebode me to bring shot animals home. That was a shock for me. Every enthusiastic hunter is proud of his prey and wants to show it. I used to do that too. As I couldn't bring killed animals home, my passion for hunting slowly ceased. In time I began to understand that hunting is merely passion for killing animals. Women in my family opened my heart to animals and today I can call myself a converted murderer.

Many hunters claim that they are friends of the animals.
Hunters and love for animals? That is ridiculous! Hunters only love animals when they are eating them. Hunters that go to the woods to feed the animals without their guns are very rare. A hunters' saying makes everything clear: A hunter without his gun is like a man without his penis on his wedding day!

Hunters claim that they kill animals to prevent their increase in number.
Nature doesn't need hunters. It is scientifically proven that there are certain mechanisms that maintain balance in nature, therefore human interference with nature isn't needed. If there are to many animals at a certain area, the number of births reduces or an illness takes care of the least resistant members of a species. Another thing has to be stressed concerning the number of animals: hunting families often report a greater number of animals at their hunting ground than the actual truth, so that the Slovenian Hunting Association can authorize a greater number of animals to be killed. I can confirm this is happening.

What is the primary hunter's motive?
Only passion for killing and selfishness. Do you know what hunters are talking about most of the time? How they shot an animal, what kind of trophies they have, which one is better, they compare each other, which hunter has a better gun, which gun does more damage to the animal, has better breakthrough… Some hunters throb with excitement and passion when they see an animal or when something moves in the bushes. This excitement can also cause accidents. Last year two accidents happened at boar hunt, when a hunter shot another hunter. I know hunters who neglected their families and farms because they preferred hunting and going to a pub after. Sometimes hunters even started a fight in a pub because someone was jealous of another one, who had shot a better animal. Even the police had to interfere. Let me tell you a story which well presents, how many hunters are addicted to killing. Years ago a member of our hunting family fell ill. I suggested to visit him on Sunday instead of going hunting. Most of the members chose hunting. Only three of us went to visit our friend. They even resented me for wanting to deprive them of their hunting pleasure (killing animals).

What about the trophies?
It is all about the most beautiful trophy. Just like other men love beautiful cars and girls. Many hunters decide to kill the most beautiful deer species, in spite of the fact that it is sometimes forbidden. They think it is worth to kill a deer that will make such a beautiful and enviable trophy, even though their hunting license might be revoked for two years.

I heard that some of the hunters visit schools and lecture to pupils. What do they talk about?
Yes, that's true. School administration invites hunters to do that. A few years ago a hunter even visited a kindergarten in Sevnica and he clearly didn't tell them that hunting is passion for killing animals. He was telling children fairytales about hunters being friends of the animals, he was convincing them, how good they are to animals, how they take care of them and how the animals need them.

Some farmers complain about wild animals eating their crops.
We didn't get a lot of such complaints. People complained more about hunters shooting their cats or loose dogs. They even shot ducks that some farmers had in creeks. Domestic animals become victims when hunters don't shoot anything in the woods.

What is your advice to hunters?
I advise them to take up a more ethical hobby or sport. They should sell their gun and buy a bike instead. Gun means killing and killing is a crime. Fishing is a crime too. At hunting an animal usually dies right away, but at fishing it is dying in terrible suffering for couple of minutes. The animals want to live together with humans and nature in harmony. In my opinion another problem is that humans interfere with nature more than they should and they are increasingly contracting living space of the animals.

What memories does his wife Slavka has of the bitter period, when Rudi was still a hunter?
Sometimes Rudi used to be away from home for the whole weekend, hunting. The hunt finished at 2 p.m., but often he afterwards went with other hunters to a pub, where they stayed till late hours. Sometimes I would come home at 10 p.m. and he would still be out. I didn't like him coming home drunk. Hunters have a saying: A real hunter comes home on Monday, if the hunt is on Sunday. In some cases alcohol led to violence at home. 15 years ago Rudi gave me fox fur that he himself tanned and he also killed the fox. My daughter told me that if I ever wore it and came to school, she would pretend not to know me. I'm against wearing animal fur too, so Rudi had to sell it. I disapprove of fishing just as much because fish suffer even more. I don't understand sport fishing, where fisherman catches a fish and then throws it back. I'm sure a fish doesn't enjoy to have a sharp hook through its mouth. I remember a teenager in botanical garden Mozirski gaj who fainted when she saw a severely damaged fish that a fisherman pulled out of the pond.

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Worth the Cost?

By Tom Fetters

I love you earth mother with all my heart
Can't stand watching them tear you apart
Lumber lusting, needing oil wells
Nature's listening to industry's hell's bells

One month we stop the clear cuts there
Now they want to hunt down a grizzley bear
Global warming pollution must decline
Action is needed, environmentalists align

Bioterrorism research in the lab
Another rhesus monkey dead on a slab
Harlem is going to set a precedent
Dense population, accidental germ incident

Department of Interior has a new head
Jumping up and down on a corporate bed
War is waged over control of resources
Greed is really what the driving force is

Amendment to Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act
Protects the traffic in skins torn off backs
Try to save an animal you're a terrorist
Bill passers on furrier's contribution list

Japanese trawler nets another whale
Sea Shepherd plunges through relentless gale
Liberate every endangered captive soul
Before they find out for whom the bells toll

Tom Fetters FG3495
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PO Box 999, 1120 Pike Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

After years of unrelenting protests and attacks by animal activists, Schumacher Furs announced last month they were closing there only store in Oregon. Another victory for the animals!

Sign at Schumacher Furs, Oregon

Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Illegal Direct Action Appears to be on the Increase, Animals Benefit

North America: Numerous anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last week, including those mocking the new Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) passed by Congress last month, and others signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

December 10
"Greetings from México. Two FLA (Frente de Liberación Animal) strikes very early this morning in Monterrey, Nuevo León. The first target was a big fur store, where all locks and doors were glued, threw paint bombs and wrote "Frente de Liberación Animal", "Muerte" and "Cada Piel es una Muerte". The second target was a KFC, that was painted with paint bombs. In Support of all ALF and ELF cells and dedicated to the SHAC 7."

December 14
"in a well coordinated action, 487 bottles of pom wonderful juices were tampered with along the Eastern seaboard in stores like wild oats, d'agostino's and food emporiums. those who drink the contaminated juice won't die like the animals in pom labs, but the diarrhea, vomiting and headaches will hopefully send a strong message that people will no longer allow innocent defenseless animals to be tormented and killed for a health juice and to line the pockets of profiteers who dont have feelings for those weaker than they are....thanks to feinstein and inhoff and the stupid animal enterprise terrorist law that violates the principles that this country is supposed to be founded on, more and more activists like us will choose to retreat into the shadows and fight for the animals underground"

December 18
"a group of indivuals went to the lower east side of manhattan and glued and tampered with the locks of every fur, leather, and wool store on orchard street between delancey street and houston street. There are dozens of stores profiting off of animal suffering in this three block stretch and our group tryed to glue every one of the locks. This is the one of many actions against the buisnesses that profit off of animal exploitation."

December 19
"Last night we gave an early Christmas present to around two hundred and fifty of our friends at the Griggstown Quail Farm in Princeton, NJ. After clipping through the fencing we cut out large sections of the canopy covering three pens, then flushed several hundred quail, phesants, and partridges out into the starry sky and freedom. The farm is located by a waterway and open fields,and we wish our friends the best of luck in establishing new lives. To the animal abuse industry, welcome to post-Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act America: not one damn bit different. Putting the Crime back in Christmas since 1984...This action dedicated to the SHAC 7"

To read the full communiqués, visit: www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/communiques_home.htm

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) is a non-profit organization working to expose animal exploitation and oppression in the media. This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge. This issue is dedicated to Peter Young, political prisoner imprisoned for his compassion and willingness to put it to good use.

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NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Volume 3, Number 2: April 2007

InThis Issue:

- **The High Price of Pacifism** by Rod Coronado
- **Press Officer Lindy Greene on the Successful Conclusion of the Campaign Against POM**
- **Prescription Drug Deaths Skyrocket** by M.T. Whitney (NewsTarget.com)
- **Just How Useful Are Animal Studies- British Medical Journal**
- **McCarthyism 2.0** By Will Potter
- **Know Your Rights and Resist the Police State- A Handy Manual for Activists**
- **Could you be seen as the terrorist next door?** By Charlotte Laws
- **Recent Direct Action and Prisoners Update**

A little late off the presses this month, the latest issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter contains some useful information on the validity of animal testing in medicine, another chapter in the ongoing debate on the effectiveness of force to stop those who abuse animals, and as always, recent developments in the world of activism and animal liberation.

Nearly five months after the US Congress passed the latest version of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), there has been no let up in the action taken on behalf of imprisoned and tortured animals. In his current essay, journalist Will Potter delineates the state of the fascist country we live in, and offers some valuable insight on how to defeat it. Remember, the U.S. Government wants you to focus your activities on clandestine liberation activities; why else do they impose silly, ever-harsher penalties on those who utilize effective forms of legal protest?

Also included is a handy manual (available online as a .pdf file for easy printing and distribution) that informs every activist of their rights under the law; no one should be without this important and valuable information!

Did you know? The Press Office is moving. By June we will have relocated to a more comfortable and larger facility, that is also being provided for less costs. Now even more of those scarce donations will go directly into the movement to oppose non-human animal exploitation by human captors. Our new mailing address and phone:

6320 Canoga Avenue #1500
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 227-5022

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" and as "terrorist" with no attention paid to the suffering that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also tries to provide a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal

The High Price of Pacifism

by Rodney Coronado
(Reprinted from No Compromise Magazine Issue #16).

I don't know how it happened, but this past Spring at the Environmental Law Conference in Eugene, Oregon I found myself on a workshop panel on police brutality. I have been on the receiving end of police brutality before, but in general, I avoid direct confrontations with law enforcement authorities and do not believe in confronting a militarily stronger opponent face to face. That is why I personally engaged in ALF activity, because when it comes to fighting an enemy much larger than yourself, the hit and run tactics of guerrilla warfare can create an advantage impossible in conventional warfare.

Too often I hear of nonviolent protesters becoming the victims of violence when they place themselves in the path of opponents who demonstrate a total disregard for their adherence to Ghandian principles of nonviolence. So as I listened to each panel member recounting the instances when police terrorized them and the subsequent legal battles they became encumbered with as a result, I couldn't help but feel that it was sometimes strategically unwise to pursue this avenue of action.

I am not a pacifist. Yet at the E-Law Conference I got the feeling that the majority of attendees believed more in passive nonviolence than aggressive self-defense. So I knew it wouldn't be with wide support for me to say what I believed about my misgiving towards nonviolence in the political climate we find ourselves in today. I told the folks in Eugene that I came from a long line of cop killers. I told them that had it not been for my ancestors' willingness to kill their oppressors I might not be alive today.

In the 1800s and early 1900s to not take up arms against the Spanish and then Mexican military often meant the loss of your land, liberty, cultural identity, and even your life. A Yaqui seen was a Yaqui killed, imprisoned, raped or deported and without a willingness to defend yourself, you surrendered control over your own life and that of your family to your oppressor. In a similar fashion, albeit a lot less extreme, I see activists doing the same thing when we religiously adhere to nonviolence and the tactics of civil disobedience in the face of increasingly violent attacks by police.

Don't get me wrong, I prefer the path of nonviolence and it saddens me to see societal attention and change primarily in response only to aggression, but unfortunately, we don't make the rules, we just play the game. Governments rarely respond to whispers, but almost always hear a scream. In such times it becomes necessary for political struggles to reevaluate their tactics and strategies and choose those that result in the least amount of physical violence, not only against our opposition, but equally against ourselves.

To not adapt strategy to changing times becomes counterproductive and when we fail to do so we become partially responsible for the violence that occurs when our nonviolent protesters are encouraged to place themselves in the path of violent prone police. No matter how many nonviolent training sessions you go to or how many books on Gandhi you read, nothing is going to change this police state's policy of using violence against peaceful protesters when they know they have the law on their side and will always get away with it. Which leads to my next point. If we do continue to use nonviolent civil disobedience as a tactic, then we should react appropriately when that tactic is responded to violently. What I mean is self-defense. There is nothing immoral, unethical or wrong with defending oneself. It is the most instinctual response in the natural world. It's genetically built into most every animal and plant and the only thing that prevents us from using it is an institutionalized belief that all physical violence is bad.

Each time we allow violent attacks on us to happen without defensive action we give strength to a dangerous precedent that tells the police that

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

High Price of Pacifism (continued)

they can get away with literal murder. You need only see what happened to Earth First!er David Chain to believe that. The Pacific Lumber employee who felled a redwood tree on David was never even arrested for the death of this nonviolent forest defender, let alone spend one night in jail like so many nonviolent protesters.

IIn the 1980s while sabotaging fox hunts in Britain our group was attacked by hunt supporters. I thought I was a pacifist, but when I saw hunt saboteurs defending themselves and the effect it had in showing our attackers that we would not passively take a beating, I abandoned that philosophy for a more pragmatic belief that allowed self defense. When the hunt supporters realized that we'd fight fire with fire they retreated. Their power over us was dependent on our refusal to defend ourselves.

Likewise, whether it during a protest against the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund or any other target within the evil empire, when police take advantage of our commitment to nonviolence and victimize innocent young activists exercising their supposed constitutional right to protest, we must retaliate. Maybe not when such a response would further endanger activists, but whenever peaceful protesters are beaten, pepper sprayed, and their civil and human rights violated, we have every right to demonstrate our right of self defense and target the property of our attackers.

Every time a protester is beaten cop cars should burn. Every time an activist is pepper sprayed tires should be slashed and windows of the offending agencies should be broken. These agencies obviously have a total disregard for life, but they sure as hell care about their property. In such a way we are able to preserve our belief in the sacredness of all life while still retaining the ability to defend ourselves.

We must demonstrate our own power instead of always witnessing theirs being used against us and all of natural creation. Even Gandhi said that nonviolence was only appropriate when used against an opponent who respects it. In Northern Ireland it was state violence against nonviolent protesters that forced the resurgence in the Irish Republican Army. In South Africa it was state violence that forced the African National Congress to form the guerrilla army, Spear of the Nation and in the United States it was state violence that encouraged the growth of the Black Panthers. As Malcolm X said, nonviolence is appropriate with nonviolent people, but if someone attacks you, self-defense is justifiable.

The struggle for animal liberation and environmental defense is about preserving the lives and rights of others, it's not about our own morality, it's about ending a war. To apply tactics that result in long and costly court battles that serve only to divert attention away from animals in labs, fur farms, circuses and the wild and instead see us defending our own rights are strategically a failure. We must only engage in tactics and strategies that focus attention on the truly oppressed, the animal people and their natural homelands.

It's not about feeling good while preserving our privileged philosophies that further separate us from other humans resisting oppression by all means necessary, this fight is about stopping the wholesale slaughter of billions of innocent beings who depend on us for their survival. Let's get over our moral hang-ups and recognize that the fate of the earth and all life upon it calls on a continued escalation in direct action.

"I do not wish to think, to speak, or write, with moderation. Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present!"

-William Lloyd Garrison, a former indentured white servant

Press Officer Lindy Greene on the Successful Conclusion of the Campaign Against POM Wonderful Juice

You are probably now aware that the POM Wonderful juice company has made the decision to stop testing on animals. The recent successful campaign against them illustrates the efficacy of a multi-strategic approach and the power of people with courage, compassion, and persistence to make a difference for the animals.

The Los Angeles grassroots activists were the "local irritant" with their noisy but legal home demonstrations in the neighborhoods of POM executives, including owners Stuart and Lynda Resnick. We have been detained in 35-degree temperature, cited, threatened with arrest, slapped with injunctions, sued, and raided for our efforts - but it has paid off in the end. To know that POM will no longer place newborn mice in oxygen-deficient chambers or sever the penile arteries of rabbits was worth all the "heat." Shame on the police and FBI who defended such evil and tried so hard to silence us and break our spirits!

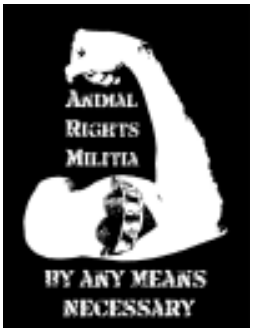
There were other people working behind the scenes writing e-mails and making telephone calls alerting nutritional product stores to POM's cruel animal experimentation and inflated health benefit claims. They asked these merchants to "shelve" POM's products. The latest such purveyor to comply was Whole Foods with its chain of 187 markets.

PETA played a role with its original exposure of POM's animal abuse, its ability to engage celebrity intervention, and its international prominence. Finally, the Animal Rights Militia sent a communique alleging that it had contaminated 487 bottles of POM juice - apparently with an emetic agent - along the Eastern seaboard. While no one to date has complained of digestive discomfort or distress after imbibing a POM product, the underground action served to draw national attention to POM's grisly animal testing and advertising puffery.

The combined efforts of citizens, businesses, and activists let an animal-abusing company know in no uncertain terms that its behavior was unacceptable and would not be tolerated. A huge victory has been won for the animals. A heartfelt thank you is extended to all who participated in this noble endeavor.

At our last demonstration in Los Angeles, Stuart Resnick - worth $900 million - came to the gates of his palatial home to proclaim, "You can protest me for 45 years; I will never stop killing animals!" Two days later, he has lived to eat his words.

Animal rights activists sometimes feel discouraged with victories seemingly so few and far between. Let this one be a reminder that the animals are worth the effort. Let it renew your commitment to stand up and speak out in their behalf. Our collective voice is the only one the animals have - and though it may appear at times to fall on deaf ears, do not become disheartened. Perseverance in a cause we know to be morally right is the only correct path - and the one hope the animals have of being delivered from the atrocities perpetrated against them by ruthless corporate profiteers like the Resnicks.



NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Prescription Drug Deaths Skyrocket

by M.T. Whitney

(NewsTarget.com, originally published February 22, 2007)

Poisoning from prescription drugs has risen to become the second-largest cause of unintentional deaths in the United States, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, researchers found that deaths from prescription drugs rose from 4.4 per 100,000 people in 1999 to 7.1 per 100,000 in 2004. This increase represents a jump from 11,000 people to almost 20,000 in the span of five years.

Among the 20,000 that died, more than 8,500 – double the number from 1999 -- were from "other and unspecified drugs." Psychotherapeutic drugs, like antidepressants and sedatives, nearly doubled from 671 deaths to 1,300.

Age-wise, the biggest jump was among people aged 15 to 24, which the CDC report says relates to recreational prescription drug use and a jump in cocaine use.

However, all other age groups except the elderly over-75 group saw increases of more than 35 percent on a per 100,000 scale in prescription drug deaths – including a nearly 90 percent jump for the late Baby Boomer generation (ages 45 to 54) and a more than 90 percent for people aged 55 to 64. Mike Adams, a consumer health advocate and outspoken critic of pharmaceutical companies, said that the drug industry is freely killing Americans.

"The entire drug industry, including the monopolistic drug giants and their FDA co-conspirator, has clearly become the single greatest threat to the health and safety of the American people," Adams said. "And yet the FDA continues to push more drugs onto more Americans than ever before, all while pretending these drugs are safe and effective when, in reality, they are neither. Today's pharmaceutical industry is a massive fraud being perpetrated against the American people, propped up by illegal trade practices, monopolistic behavior and outright criminal behavior on the part of the FDA."

One caveat of the report is that the data used did not allow suicides to be separated from other drug deaths, meaning there may be inherent errors because it was impossible to tell after death the intent or reason for a person's death from prescription drugs.

"Some of these deaths might have been suicides, although not classified as such, and some deaths categorized as suicides or of undetermined intent might have been unintentional and therefore not analyzed in this study. The extent of this error is not known," the report states.

However, statistics from the web site suicide.org state that in 2001, nearly 5,200 deaths came from self-poisoning, which includes not only abusing prescription drugs but also overdosing on over-the-counter drugs and ingesting lethal chemicals.

Just How Useful Are Animal Studies

(British Medical Journal, December 18, 2006)

Animal studies are of limited usefulness to human health because they are of poor quality and their results often conflict with human trials, argue researchers in a study online in the British Medical Journal.

Before clinical trials are carried out, the safety and effectiveness of new drugs are usually tested in animal models. Some believe, however, that the results from animal trials are not applicable to humans because of biological differences between the species. So researchers compared treatment effects in animal models with human clinical trials.

They used systematic reviews (impartial summaries of evidence from many different studies) of human and animal trials to analyse the effects of six drugs for conditions such as head injury, stroke and osteoporosis. Agreement between human and animal studies varied.

For example, corticosteroids did not show any benefit for treating head injury in clinical trials but did show a benefit in animal models. Results also differed for the drug tirilazad to treat stroke - data from animal studies suggested a benefit but the clinical trials showed no benefit and possible harm.

Some results did agree. For instance, bisphosphonates increased bone mineral density in both clinical trials and animal studies, while corticosteroids reduced neonatal respiratory distress syndrome in animal studies and in clinical trials, although the data were sparse.

Animal studies are generally of poor quality and lack agreement with clinical trials, which limits their usefulness to human health, say the authors. This discordance may be due to bias, random error, or the failure of animal models to adequately represent clinical disease.

Systematic reviews could help translate research findings from animals to humans. They could also promote closer collaboration between the research communities and encourage an interative approach to improving the relevance of animal models to clinical trial design, they conclude.

McCarthyism 2.0

By Will Potter

Minutes after receiving an invitation to testify before Congress about legislation labeling activists as “terrorists,” I barged into a colleague’s office with a hotshot grin on my face, looking for some kind of congratulations-all-those-years-of-reporting -finally-got-some-attention pat on the back. I also hoped he could help ease my nerves, and, however canned, tell me “you have nothing to worry about, you’ll do great.” I got none of that. A somber look dripped down his face. He turned his head to each side, on the lookout for nosey ears. Then he began to say, slowly and softly, “Do you think that’s a good…”

He had reason for concern. Corporations and the politicians that represent them have been on a coordinated campaign to silence dissent by branding anyone who stands in their way a “terrorist.” They’ve taken a few pages from the Red Scare playbook and a few from the “with us or against us” playbook of the War on Terror. The New McCarthyists are building a Green Scare upon a foundation of fear.

They’ve used their deep pocketbooks and PR savvy to place a terrorist in every shadow. They’ve taken out full-page anonymous ads in both The New York Times and The Washington Post labeling animal rights activists as “terrorists” for being a little too successful, and knocking a controversial animal testing laboratory from the New York Stock Exchange. The National Association for Biomedical Research bought a full-page ad in Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, featuring a vandalized office and, in red spray paint, “Your home is next” (so lawmakers had better act now and

McCarthyism 2.0 (continued)

endorse the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). NABR also sells a poster version of one of their "domestic terrorist" ads (only $5!) featuring three men in black ski masks with axes.

Not even children's movies are safe from the relentless green baiting and guilt by association. Industry groups labeled Hoot "soft-core eco-terrorism" because the teenage protagonists try to save an endangered owl from developers. The pint-sized activists' campaign of terror included putting alligators in portable toilets.

Green Scare pioneer Ron Arnold, who admitted he had not yet seen the film when interviewed by one reporter, said, "Hoot's so-called harmless 'mischief' is training a generation to look cute while burning homes and cars and stores."

The scare-mongering would be laughable if it hadn't worked its way into the top levels of government. "The No. 1 domestic terrorism threat is the eco-terrorism, animal-rights movement," according to John Lewis, the top dog at the FBI in charge of domestic terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security does not list right-wing terrorists on a list of national security threats, even though those groups have been responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing, the Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, violence against doctors, and admittedly creating weapons of mass destruction. The animal rights and environmental movements have done nothing like that.

But those movements have committed an even deadlier sin: targeting corporate profits. "Although incidents related to terrorism are most likely to make the front-page news, animal rights extremism is what's most likely to affect your day-to-day business operations." That's from a presentation given to corporations by the Overseas Security Advisory Council, a division of the State Department.

The Department of Homeland Security has said much of the same. The very first line of a DHS bulletin to law enforcement agencies said: "Attacks against corporations by animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists are costly to the targeted company and, over time, can undermine confidence in the economy."

It goes on to warn about "eco-terrorism" like "flyer distribution," "organizing protests," and "tying up company phone lines." In addition to extremist tactics like "organizing protests" and "inundating computers with e-mails," DHS notes in passing illegal actions like verbal harassment and vandalism. But nowhere in the bulletin is the word "violence" used.

Even though my colleague didn't know the details of the "eco-terrorism" legislation, he didn't know the list of corporations and industry groups behind it and he didn't know the full scale of this scare-mongering, he knew enough: in the "with us or against us" War on Terror, he wouldn't want to risk being placed in the "against us" camp.

What if my boss doesn't approve? What if I lose my job? What if this gets me placed on "terrorist" blacklists? What if what if what if?

I answered "yes" before he could even finish the question. The visceral reply startled me: I'm no rebel reporter with nerves of steel, ready to throw all my chips on the table and let it ride. I'm overly cautious with many decisions, analyzing and re-analyzing them until I nearly incapacitate myself. But no, this time he was the one who was overreacting, I told myself. I may get slammed during the hearing but lawmakers aren't going to ship me off to Gitmo. Or would they?

I told a few other friends—still selfishly looking for some ego-stroking, still desperately hoping for some positive reinforcement—but got much of the same. They had supported my writing and attempts to raise awareness about the Green Scare. But in this political climate, why draw a giant red, er, green target on your back?

It made me realize that that's the point of all of this. The purpose of the balaclava-clad ad campaigns, the State Department briefings, the DHS memos, the outlandish prison sentences, the FBI harassment and the blacklists is not to protect national security or even to catch illegal, underground activists. The point is to instill fear in the mainstream animal rights and environmental movements—and every other social movement paying attention—and make people think twice about using their First Amendment rights.

When prominent activists are hauled before grand juries and threatened with jail time unless they discuss their political beliefs and political associations, you start to wonder if you'll get hit with the same for sticking your neck out too far.

When a nonviolent activist like Adam Durand gets 180 days in jail, $1,500 in fines, probation, plus 100 hours of community service, all for producing an undercover documentary about a factory farm, you start to wonder if it could happen to you.

And when the SHAC7 are convicted on "animal enterprise terrorism" charges for running a website, you start to wonder if you'll be next.

The Red Scare operated on exactly the same terms. Take the case of Lamont v. Postmaster General. There was a federal law that said anyone receiving "communist political propaganda" through the post office had to specifically authorize the delivery of each piece of mail.

The law didn't say it was illegal to send or receive communist propaganda. It just said you had to authorize it. But that has the same effect, doesn't it? You'd have to be a real nut job to voluntarily put your name on a list of folks receiving commie propaganda during the Red Scare: clueless, fearless, or a little of both. So people didn't do it.

McCarthyism 2.0 runs the same way. Corporations and the politicians that represent them aren't trying to blatantly outlaw the animal rights and environmental movements. But they're creating a climate of fear that they hope will have the same effect.

Today's repression may mimic many of the tactics of the Red Scare, but today's response cannot. Witch-hunts will test the backbone of social movements, just as they did decades ago. But it's not enough to cowardly distance ourselves from the "eco-terrorists," as many did during the Red Scare. Condemning underground activists, or anyone charged with illegal actions, won't get you off the hook. Naming names and making loyalty oaths didn't protect activists then, and it won't protect activists now.

The only way we're going to get through this is by coming out and confronting it head-on. That means working with anti-abortion activists, anti-war activists and others, and telling them that the greens are just the canaries in the mine. That means reaching out to mainstream Americans and telling them that labeling activists as terrorists wastes valuable anti-terrorism resources and is an insult to everyone who died in the twin towers.

And that means reaching out to colleagues, friends and family and talking openly and honestly about the fear, rather than dismissing it. I missed a valuable opportunity that day, to talk about the chilling effect of terrorism rhetoric and how we can confront it together, because I was so focused on the task at hand. It's important that we not let the scare-mongering deter us from our work, whether it's testifying against dangerous legislation or exposing factory farms. But it's equally important that we have supportive relationships ready for when the War on Terror comes home. That means taking every available opportunity to build strong communities of people who know their rights, know how they're threatened, and know what's at stake if we acquiesce.

Know Your Rights and Resist the Police State- A Handy Manual for Activists

For copies of this handbill or the .PDF file, email freeskoolsc@ riseup.net or visit http://santacruz.freeskool.org

Our system of laws exists to maintain the dominance of those in power, and the police are its armed enforcers. If you doubt this for a minute, look at who are the selective targets of local laws: The homeless, the young, the poor, dissenters. Globally, look at who dies and who gets rich from our wars and other disasters.

For 250 years in this country, the government and their enforcers have consistently fought against people working for liberation: Indigenous resistance, land reformers, slave revolts, abolitionists, labor organizers & workers, free-speech advocates, women and civil rights workers, anti-war and anti-globalization protesters, and recently, animal rights and environmental activists.

Your relationship with the police is at heart adversarial. While there may be cops with hearts of gold, the job of all police is to arrest and prosecute you. As such, it is almost never in your best interest to cooperate with the police.

Keeping yourself safe and resisting the police state comes down to these simple principles:

1) **Non-cooperation:** If you talk with the police, you could unintentionally hurt yourself, your friends, or others.

2) **Do not consent to searches:** Never give law enforcement the okay to examine your pockets, car, backpack, or home.

3) **Remain silent:** Say nothing except "I'm going to remain silent, and I would like to see a lawyer."

4) **Talk to a lawyer:** Never take advice from the police, they may try to trick and mislead you.

5) **Use trust and intuition:** Work only with people you have a history of trust. Without being paranoid, trust your intuition.

RIGHTS DURING A POLICE ENCOUNTER

In a police encounter these rules will help protect your civil rights and improve your chances of driving or walking away safely. From here on out, we are talking about your legal "rights" guaranteed by law. Though in our view, what you can do and what you can do legally are two different things. All of these rights also apply to minors and non-citizens.

Keep Private Items Out of View

This is common sense: Always keep any private items that you don't want others to see out of sight. Legally speaking, police do not need a search warrant in order to confiscate any illegal items that are in plain view.

Stay Cool & Politely Assertive

Police are well armed and often unpredictable, so remaining cool and calm will keep you safe. Treat them with the respect you would treat a dangerous, wild animal. Be polite and yet assertive to ensure that your rights aren't trampled on. Some officers may come on heavy if you are not absolutely submissive, but standing up for your rights will keep you safe in the long run, in court when it really matters.

Determine If You Can Leave

You don't have to talk to the police. As soon as an officer approaches you, ask the officer, "Am I free to go?" If you get an answer other than a definitive "No," gather your stuff and leave without another word.

You have the right to end an encounter with a police officer unless you are being detained or arrested. Don't waste time trying to determine your status. Test if you are free to go, and then go. If you aren't free to go, the officer will make it perfectly clear.

Use the Magic Words

If you are detained or arrested, use the magic words:

"I'm going to remain silent. I would like to see a lawyer."

Do not talk to police. Wait to talk to a lawyer representing you. Even casual small talk can come back to haunt you. Anything you say can, and will, be used against you.

Cops have numerous tricks to get you to talk. They can and do use fear, solitude, isolation, lies, advice, playing you against others, and even kindness to get you to cooperate. Don't be fooled. If you need to say anything, repeat the magic words.

Keep in mind the credo: If no one talks, everyone walks. Regardless of what you are told by an investigating officer, you have nothing to gain by talking to the police... and everything to lose.

Refuse to Consent to Searches

Officers seeking evidence will often try to get you to allow them to search your belongings, your car, or your home. Refuse to consent to a search, with the phrase:

"I do not consent to a search."

Usually, a search request will come in the form of an ambiguous statement, such as, "I'm going to ask you to empty your pockets." Answer such requests unambiguously. Repeat as many times as necessary.

You are under no obligation to allow a search. The only reason an officer asks your permission is because he doesn't have enough evidence to search without your consent.

Police officers are not required to inform you of your rights before asking you to consent to a search. If the officer searches you in spite of your objection, do not resist. Your attorney can argue that any evidence found during the search was discovered through an illegal search and should be thrown out of court.

Do Not Try to Bargain

Police officers will often tell you that your cooperation will make things easier for you, and many people hope to be let off easy if they are honest and direct with the police. The only thing it makes easier is the officer's job. Do not let the threat of arrest scare you into admitting guilt. Better to spend a night in jail, than years in prison. Ask to speak with a lawyer, and remain silent.

Where to Go For More Help

If you feel your rights are being violated, hold tight until you can talk to a lawyer. If you don't have your own lawyer the court will appoint the public defender to defend you. For more information about your rights, law education, and what to do if your rights were violated, check out:

Midnight Special Law Collective midnightspecial.net 510-261-4843
ACLU of Northern California http://www.aclunc.org 415-621-2493
National Lawyers Guild http://www.nlg.org/sf 415-285-5067

There may also be legal help in your community that will specifically help you if you are a senior, low-income, homeless, or a non-citizen Ask around in your community.

ANIMAL RIGHTS 2007
NATIONAL CONFERENCE - L.A. - July 19 - 23

Join the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in our new booth at AR2007, held this year in Los Angeles at the Westin LAX, located at 5400 West Century Blvd (just west of the 405 freeway), Los Angeles, California 90045. Phone 310-216-5858; Fax 310-417-4545. The hotel is easily accessible by car and by public transportation.

Books, newsletters and new Direct Action T-shirts will be available, as well as stimulating conversation with Press Officers and other activists.

Could you be seen as the terrorist next door?

By Charlotte Laws

I was an ordinary American until Nov. 27, 2006, when I became a terrorist, or more accurately, what I call a "stand-by terrorist."

Perhaps I cannot truly own this newfound nickname until the government decides to prosecute me for word crimes, if that day ever arrives. Until then, I just think of myself as being on stand-by, just as are most - if not all - Americans, whether they realize it or not.

You may wonder how words can amount to a terrorist act in the land of the free and home of the outspoken. It is not widely known, but Congress last year passed legislation called the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which can be used to prosecute civil disobedience and speech as "domestic terrorism" when an animal-related business loses profits and property. The act also protects corporations that pollute and destroy the environment.

You may ask: What does this have to do with me because I'm no nature fan or animal lover?

Well, it could eventually have very much to do with you because the AETA - a natural child of the Patriot Act - is likely to be the first of many assaults on the social-justice movement in favor of corporations and other moneyed interests. If you think you may want to use your free speech some day to criticize something, anything, then you had better be very concerned.

You should also be concerned about whether law enforcement protects you from the bin Ladens of the world or fritters away your hard-earned tax dollars investigating pacifists. The American Civil Liberties Union says the FBI uses "counterterrorism resources to monitor and infiltrate (nonviolent) domestic political organizations that criticize business interests and government policies." An FBI special agent recently told me that planting undercover agents at legal, peaceful events - with hopes that they will somehow learn about illegal activities - is a favored tactic of the bureau.

What are the parameters of AETA and who could be tangled in its web, slapped with prison time and branded a terrorist? Could Oprah Winfrey - the beloved and successful talk show host - and her former vegetarian guest, Howard Lyman, be prosecuted as terrorists if they were to repeat anti-beef comments made to Winfrey's 15 million viewers in 1996?

It is indeed possible, because the AETA is overbroad, vague and subject to the whims of law enforcement. That much was evidenced last year when six young, New Jersey Web site operators became the first individuals convicted on "animal enterprise terrorism" charges.

The young people were part of the Stop Huntington Cruelty campaign, which targeted the Huntington Life Sciences animal research labs. The site operators did nothing more than assert their First Amendment rights: They posted videotape of tortured dogs inside HLS and reported the legal and illegal handiwork of activists, which eventually caused the corporation to lose profits and to be dropped from the New York Stock Exchange. The FBI was unable to catch the underground activists, so it targeted the Web site operators, who are serving up to six years in prison for their speech.

If the government fails to catch a thief or saboteur, should it be allowed to pursue the CNN reporter who delivers the news? Or an outspoken op-ed columnist? Or six kids from New Jersey with a Web site? The AETA ignores Shakespeare's recommendation, "Don't shoot the messenger," potentially stigmatizing a "speaker" with the most heinous, post-9-11 label in America: terrorist.

America is about nothing if it is not about fairness and free speech. The AETA does not comport with this image. It is unjust and unconstitutional, and it interferes with the prosecution of real terrorism against the American people.

Once we faced a "red scare"; now we are bombarded with a "green scare." The time has come to ask yourself: Do you really want to be on stand-by or do you want to take a stand?

And are you now, or could you someday be, the terrorist next door?

Charlotte Laws, Ph.D., is the author of a chapter of the 2006 book, "Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of Mother Earth." She is founder and president of the Los Angeles Directors of Animal Welfare and is a member of the Greater Valley Glen Council.

On a daily basis, animals are drowned, suffocated and starved to death; they have their limbs severed and their organs crushed; they are burned, exposed to radiation, and used in experimental surgeries; they are shocked, raised in isolation, exposed to weapons of mass destruction, and rendered blind or paralyzed; they are the given heart attacks, ulcers, paralysis, and seizures; they are forced to inhale tobacco smoke, drink alcohol, and ingest various drugs, such as heroin and cocaine. And they say animal rights activists are violent?

- Tom Regan, Philosopher

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NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Numerous anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last few weeks, including those mocking the new Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) passed by Congress last year, and others signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

December 22, 2006
Kent Fisher Furs of Towson, MD- Large etched glass display window destroyed by pellet gun fire. Our early Christmas present to this Death Dealer! Profiteers of murder get worse than just coal in their stockings!

Close shop or we'll keep visiting. Dedicated to Peter Young
-The ALF

January 5, 2007
University of Utah cat/primate vivisector extraordinaire Audie Gene Leventhal owns quite a lot of property in Salt Lake City. When we learned he was selling a vacant home he owns on 11739 S. Lampton View Dr., South Jordan, UT, we knew we had to help him remodel.

We find it amusing that his real estate company boasts being "secure and safe" on their sign (securere.com). Let's put them to the test. We applied glass-eating acid on the windows to his house, including his nice sliding glass door leading the backyard. Altogether 6 windows and this door were destroyed. We also covered his house in paint including the words "CAT KILLER" to remind him of all the suffering he has caused kittens who have had their eyes sewn shut and all the torment he has caused to primates.

Audie, we know your wife Jackie who you've repeatedly beaten on your drunken rampages may be afraid of you, but we are not. We are disgusted by you and we will be back repeatedly to destroy your property until animals no longer die for your blood money. Which property should be next Audie? Your mansion on 2215 E. 5340 S., Holladay, UT? Or your 2nd home on 1519 Devonshire Dr., Salt Lake City, UT? Your office park at 2940 W. 3650 S., West Valley, UT? Or how about your property in Nevada? You'll find out soon enough. Until you leave the torture business we'll continue to turn your life upside down. -ALF

Leventhal can be reached at:
home #: 801-582-2727
lab #: 801-581-6097
cell #: 801-598-4048

PS. To all the vivisectors we have yet to visit: don't bask in your recent legislative victory for too long. This new animal enterprise law means NOTHING. If you haven't got that point already, we're confident by the year's end that you'll have figured that one out. We're willing to risk our lives and freedom to defeat you and stop your cruelty, most of you retreat at the thought of losing your new yacht or luxury car. Now really, who do you think is going to win?

February 7, 2007
Last weekend the home of David Stout, President of GlaxoSmithKline, was left dripping with spray paint in Philadelphia. This is the third time that Stout's house has been vandalized. Stout has been touted as one of the front-runners for the CEO position at Glaxo once their current CEO retires next year. He and others at GSK can expect even more visits until Glaxo stops contracting with HLS. Oh, and for the teenagers who killed themselves after taking the GSK drug Seroxat - killed themselves because Glaxo hid the test data showing that Seroxat caused teen suicide (this story was released by the BBC last week) - consider this a tiny, tiny, tiny dose of payback on their behalf for you sick fucks at Glaxo.

February 18, 2007
Last night a friend of Huntington Life Sciences, Hubnet Express at 1014 Hillcrest Blvd. in Inglewood, CA was payed a little visit. Hubnet Express is long standing client of HLS who use thier services to ship samples and other supplies used in the torture and abuse of animals that HLS is notorious for.

ALF activists used spraypaint to leave a clear message letting Hubnet know that they will need to cut their ties with HLS. Come Monday morning, once they make their way past the glued locks, they will also find a surprise inside. Red dye was sprayed on the carpets. The red die symbolizes the 500 innocent animal that are murdered daily at the torture facilities that HLS dares to call laboratories. Added to the dye was a concentrated liquid smoke. The smell of smoke may burn their nostrils but they are to consider themselves fortunate because if they do not cut their ties with HLS the smell of smoke will not be from a liquid concentrate.

Hubnet, we don't want to come back but we will if we have too. Cut those ties. In solidarity with direct action worldwide, ALF

February 20, 2007
The ALF struck the Blue Chip Farm Inc. in Fountain Inn, SC after giving warning of impending action due to failure to cease and desist the slaughter of rabbits for food and fur.

20 rabbits were freed with 4 rabbits taken to be placed in homes. The ALF regrets not being able to save them all but still sees last night as a victory.

Last night's action will be repeated if farm is not shut down. TILL EVERY CAGE IS EMPTY..... Animal Liberation Front

March 6, 2007
On the early morning of March 6 the ALF visited the home of Jason Bratt, 1425 Southeast Viquil Street, Portland, Oregon. The phrase "Drop SSK" were painted on his garage door and the letters ALF were scrawled across the side of his car in black spray paint. Jason Bratt is the first vice-president of Wachovia Securities in Portland Oregon, an investment firm which owns over half a billion dollars in shares in GlaxoSmithKline. GlaxoSmithKline is the largest customer of Huntingdon Life Sciences. This is a warning to Wachovia; sell your shares in GSK or the ALF will continue to target the homes and property of your employees.

April 4, 2007
26 turtles released from trap and returned to pond. Yellowbelly, painted, mud and musk turtles were all released from a turtle trap and trap destroyed. South Carolina, USA

NORTH AMERICAN
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Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jeffrey "Free" Luers #13797671
Oregon State Prison
2605 State Street Salem
Oregon 97310

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within the next year.

Joyanna Zacher #1662550
Lane County Adult Corrections
101 W. 5th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401-2603

Nathan Block #1663667
Lane County Adult Corrections
101 W. 5th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401-2603

Connection to the Jefferson Poplar Farm fire which occurred in 2001 in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- 1 year, 1 day
26397-050
FCI FORT DIX
P.O. BOX 2000
FORT DIX, NJ 08640

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Volume 3, Number 3: July 2007

InThis Issue:

- **Arms and the Movement** by Peter Gelderloos
- **Unwise Branding: Equating Animal-rights Activism with Terrorism**
- **The Press Office On Snitching**
- **Oxford Vivisectionists are Swimming Against the Tide** By neurosurgeon Marius Maxwell
- **Trust Me I'm a Vivisector!** From Arkangel Magazine
- **Misssouri Animal Research Lab Agrees to Settle for Animal Welfare Act Violations**
- **Rethinking Revolution: Animal Liberation, Human Liberation, and the Future of the Left** By Steven Best, Ph.D.

This latest issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter is loaded with informative and educational articles from both the streets and academia. The underground arm of the animal liberation movement has been more active than ever, and the Press Office is here to report on and explain actions taken on behalf of exploited, oppressed, tortured and murdered non-human animals.

While some in the movement bemoan the passage of repressive legislation aimed at increasingly successful campaigns and actions, liberation activists with their boots on the ground are not worried in the least. As an increasingly fascist state makes life difficult on those willing to show their faces, others will capitalize on the security and effectiveness of direct action. No state, no corporation, no one is going to stop the animal liberation movement, which grows stronger in its knowledge of truly effective tactics that do not depend on asking the master for crumbs as non-human animals are slaughtered around us for profit.

All successsful liberation struggles have required sacrifice, just as they all embraced a wide array of tactics aimed at overpowering a powerful oppressor that thrived on exploitation. Animal Liberation is no different!

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) is a non-profit organization working to expose animal exploitation and oppression in the media. This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge.

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Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

Arms and the Movement

by Peter Gelderloos

Pacifism equals pacified to this activist

I could spend plenty of time talking about the failures of nonviolence. Instead, it may be useful to talk about its supposed successes. Frequently cited examples are India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1960s, and the peace movement during the war in Vietnam. Though they have not yet been hailed as a victory, the massive protests in 2003 against the United States' invasion of Iraq also have been applauded by nonviolent activists. In claiming these as victories for nonviolence, however, pacifists have engaged in a pattern of historical manipulation and whitewashing.

In India, the story goes, people led by Mahatma Gandhi built up a massive nonviolent movement over decades and engaged in protest, noncooperation, economic boycotts, hunger strikes, and other acts of disobedience that made British imperialism unworkable. The movement suffered massacres and responded with a couple of riots, but on the whole, the movement was nonviolent and eventually won independence, providing an undeniable hallmark of pacifist victory.

The actual history is more complicated. Many violent pressures also influenced the British decision to withdraw. The British had lost the ability to maintain colonial power after losing millions of troops and resources during two extremely violent world wars. The armed struggles of Arab and Jewish militants in Palestine from 1945 to 1948 further weakened the British Empire, and these conflicts served as a clear threat of what might result if the Indians gave up civil disobedience to take up arms en masse.

India's resistance to British colonialism included enough militancy that the Gandhian method should be viewed most accurately as one of several competing forms of popular resistance. Pacifists white out those other forms of resistance, ignoring important militant leaders such as Chandrasekhar Azad, who fought in armed struggle against the British colonizers, and revolutionaries such as Bhagat Singh, who won mass support for bombings and assassinations as part of a struggle to accomplish the "overthrow of both foreign and Indian capitalism." The pacifist history of India's struggle cannot make any sense of the fact that Subhas Chandra Bose, the militant candidate, was twice elected president of the Indian National Congress, in 1938 and 1939.

Ultimately, the liberation movement in India failed. The British were not forced out. Under pressure from a diverse resistance, they chose to hand power over to the parts of the resistance they felt would best uphold their interests, shifting from direct colonial rule to neocolonial rule. What kind of victory allows the losing side to dictate the time and manner of the victors' ascendancy? The British continued to fan the flames of religious and ethnic separatism so that India would be divided against itself, prevented from gaining peace and prosperity, and dependent on military aid and other support from Euro/American states.

Independence from colonial rule has given India more autonomy in a few areas, and it has certainly allowed a handful of Indians to sit in the seats of power. But the exploitation and the commoditization of the commons and of culture have deepened. Moreover, India lost a clear opportunity for meaningful liberation from a foreign oppressor. Any liberation movement now would have to go up against the confounding dynamics of nationalism and ethnic/religious rivalry in order to abolish a domestic capitalism and government that are far more developed.

The U.S. civil rights movement is one of the most important episodes in pacifist history. Across the world, people see it as an example of nonviolent victory. In truth, it was neither nonviolent nor a victory.

On the contrary, though pacifist groups such as Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference had considerable power and influence, popular support, especially among poor black people, gravitated toward militant revolutionary groups such as the Black Panther Party.

Arms and the Movement (continued)

According to a 1970 Harris poll, 66 percent of African Americans said the activities of the Black Panther Party gave them pride, and 43 percent said the party represented their own views.

The nonviolent segments of the civil rights movement cannot be distilled and separated from its revolutionary parts. Pacifist, middle-class black activists, including King, got much of their power from the specter of black resistance and the presence of armed black revolutionaries.

To cite one example: In the spring of 1963, King's Birmingham campaign was fixing to be a repeat of the dismally failed action in Albany, Georgia, where a nine-month civil disobedience campaign that began in 1961 had demonstrated the powerlessness of nonviolent protesters against a government with seemingly bottomless jails. Then, on May 7, after continued police violence in Birmingham, 3,000 black people began fighting back, pelting the police with rocks and bottles. Just two days later, Birmingham -- up until then an inflexible bastion of segregation -- agreed to desegregate downtown stores, and President Kennedy backed the agreement with federal guarantees.

Within days, after local white supremacists bombed a black home and a black business, thousands of black people rioted again, seizing a nine-block area, destroying police cars, injuring several cops (including the chief inspector), and burning white businesses. Within weeks, Kennedy ended several years of stalling and called for Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act. As King himself said, "The sound of the explosion in Birmingham reached all the way to Washington."

In short, the largest victory of the civil rights movement came when black people demonstrated that they would not remain peaceful forever. Faced with the two alternatives, the white power structure chose to negotiate with the pacifists, and we have seen the results: The movement was successful in ending de jure segregation and expanding the minuscule black petty bourgeoisie, but fell far short of full political and economic equality, to say nothing of black liberation from white imperialism. People of color still have lower average incomes, poorer access to housing and health care, and poorer health than white people. De facto segregation still exists. Political equality is also lacking. Millions of voters, most of them black, are disenfranchised (from voting for white candidates in a white political system that reflects a white culture) when it is convenient to ruling interests, and only three black senators have served since Reconstruction.

The claim that the U.S. peace movement ended the war in Vietnam contains the usual set of flaws. With unforgivable self-righteousness, peace activists ignore the fact that 3 million to 5 million Indochinese died in the fight against the U.S. military; tens of thousands of U.S. troops were killed and hundreds of thousands wounded; other troops were demoralized and had become ineffective and openly rebellious; and the United States was losing political capital (and going fiscally bankrupt) to a point where pro-war politicians began calling for a strategic withdrawal.

Some pacifists claim that the huge number of conscientious objectors who refused to fight points to a nonviolent victory. But far more significant than passive conscientious objectors were the active rebellions by black, Latino, and Native American troops. The government's plan, in response to black urban riots, of taking unemployed young black men off the streets and into the military, backfired. Fragging, sabotage, refusal to fight, rioting in the stockades, and aiding the enemy contributed significantly to the decision to pull out ground troops. The Pentagon estimated that 3 percent of officers and noncommissioned officers killed in Vietnam from 1961 to 1972 were killed by their own troops. In many instances, soldiers in a unit pooled their money to raise a bounty for the killing of an unpopular officer.

"By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse," wrote Marine Corps Colonel Robert D. Heinl in the Armed Forces Journal in June 1971, "with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and noncommissioned officers, drug-ridden and dispirited where not near mutinous. Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious."

Although they were less politically significant than resistance from within the military, bombings and other acts of violence in protest of the war on white college campuses should not be ignored in favor of the pacifist whitewash. In the 1969-70 school year (September through May), a conservative estimate counts 174 antiwar bombings on campuses and at least 70 off-campus bombings and other violent attacks targeting ROTC buildings, government buildings, and corporate offices. Additionally, 230 campus protests included physical violence, and 410 included damage to property.

In conclusion, what was a very limited victory -- the withdrawal of ground troops after many years of warfare -- can be most clearly attributed to two factors: the successful and sustained violent resistance of the Vietnamese, and the militant and often lethal resistance of the U.S. ground troops themselves. The domestic antiwar movement clearly worried those in power, but it had certainly not become powerful enough that we can say it "forced" the government to do anything, and in any case, its most forceful elements used violence.

Perhaps confused by their own false history of the peace movement during the Vietnam War, pacifist organizers against the invasion of Iraq seemed to expect a repeat of a victory that never happened. On February 16, 2003, as the U.S. government moved toward war with Iraq, Agence France-Presse hailed weekend protests as "a stinging rebuke to Washington and its allies." The protests were the largest in history; excepting a few minor scuffles, they were entirely nonviolent. United for Peace and Justice and some other antiwar groups even suggested that the protests might avert war.

As we now know, they were totally wrong, and the protests were totally ineffective. The invasion occurred as planned, despite the millions of people nominally, peacefully, and powerlessly opposed to it. The antiwar movement did nothing to change the power relationships in the United States. President Bush received substantial political capital for invading Iraq, and was not faced with a backlash until the war and occupation effort began to show signs of failure due to the effective armed resistance of the Iraqi people.

A good case study regarding the efficacy of nonviolent protest can be seen in Spain's involvement with the U.S.-led occupation. Spain, with 1,300 troops, was one of the larger junior partners in the "Coalition of the Willing." More than a million Spaniards protested the invasion, and 80 percent of the Spanish population was opposed to it, but their commitment to peace ended there; they did nothing to actually prevent Spanish military support for the invasion and occupation. Because they remained passive and did nothing to disempower the leadership, they remained as powerless as the citizens of any democracy. Not only was Prime Minister Aznar allowed to go to war, he was expected by all forecasts to win reelection.

Until the bombings. On March 11, 2004, just days before the voting booths opened, multiple bombs planted by an al-Qaida-linked cell exploded on Madrid trains, killing 191 people and injuring 1,755. Directly because of this, Aznar and his party lost in the polls, and the Socialists, the major party with an antiwar platform, were elected to power. The U.S.-led coalition shrunk with the loss of the Spanish troops. Whereas millions of peaceful activists voting in the streets like good sheep have not weakened the brutal occupation in any measurable way, a few dozen terrorists willing to slaughter noncombatants were able to cause the withdrawal of more than a thousand occupation troops.

So much for the victories of pacifism.

The Madrid bombings do not present an example for action, but rather, an important paradox: Do people who stick to nonviolent tactics that have not proved effective in ending the war against Iraq really care more for human life than the Madrid terrorists? From India to Birmingham, nonviolence has

Arms and the Movement (continued)

failed to sufficiently empower its practitioners, whereas the use of a diversity of tactics got results. Put simply, if a movement is not a threat, it cannot change a system that is based on centralized coercion and violence.

Time and again, people struggling not for some token reform but for complete liberation -- the reclamation of control over our own lives and the power to negotiate our own relationships with the people and the world around us -- will find that nonviolence does not work, that we face a self-perpetuating power structure that is immune to appeals to conscience and strong enough to plow over the disobedient and uncooperative.

We must reclaim histories of resistance to understand why we have failed in the past and how exactly we achieved the limited successes we did. We must also accept that all social struggles, except those carried out by a completely pacified and thus ineffective people, include a diversity of tactics.

Peter Gelderloos is an activist and community organizer who has worked with Food Not Bombs and against the School of the Americas. Excerpted from his book How Nonviolence Protects the State (2007), published by South End Press, an independent, collectively run publisher dedicated to the politics of radical social change; www.southendpress.org.

Wall Street Journal, May 9, 2007

Without Violence's Help, Nonviolence Doesn't Do Much

Pacifists have overemphasized the role of nonviolent protest in the civil-rights movement and the liberation of India, says Peter Gelderloos, a prominent leftist activist in the Utne Reader. He recommends that today's activists adopt some violent tactics that he says played a key role in those successes.

He criticizes the conventional narrative of India's liberation, in which Mahatma Gandhi-led acts of "protest, noncooperation, economic boycotts, hunger strikes, and other acts of disobedience … made British imperialism unworkable." This narrative erases the militants who fought for independence by assassinating British officials in the 1920s and 1930s, such as Chandrasekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh. Subhas Chandra Bose, an advocate of violent resistance and a rival of Mr. Ghandi's, was twice elected president of the Indian National Congress, in 1938 and 1939.

Mr. Gelderloos also insists that the nonviolent elements of the U.S. civil-rights movement of the 1960s "cannot be distilled and separated from its revolutionary parts." He says that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s nine-month civil-disobedience campaign in Albany, Ga., in 1961 achieved very little. Dr. King's famous Birmingham, Ala., campaign in 1963 succeeded in bringing about desegregation, he says, only because, on top of the nonviolent protests, 3,000 people eventually fought against the aggression of the police with rocks and bottles. "The largest victory of the civil rights movement came when black people demonstrated that they would not remain peaceful forever," says Mr. Gelderloos.

The emphasis on nonviolence lies behind what Mr. Gelderloos describes as a failure by activists to end the U.S.'s involvement in Iraq. He insists the political system has been able to ignore the large, nonviolent protests against the war because it is "is immune to appeals to conscience and strong enough to plow over the disobedient and uncooperative." Without going into specifics in the excerpt from his book "How Nonviolence Protects the State," Mr. Gelderloos recommends his fellow activists adopt "a diversity of tactics," including violence, if they really want to effect change. — Robin Moroney

Nature Magazine. 23 May 2007

Unwise Branding: Equating Animal-rights Activism with Terrorism

Equating animal-rights activism with terrorism increases the penalties for offenders and will please many of their victims. But it is not in the interests of science.

Terrorist is not a word you throw around lightly. And it is certainly not a word you apply to anyone with whom you would like to have a civil conversation. A US tendency to apply the
label to militant activists who are against animal research or genetic engineering slams shut a door that might be difficult to reopen — to researchers' cost.

In a courtroom in Eugene, Oregon, last week, federal prosecutors asked for a 'terrorism enhancement' on the sentencing of ten environmental activists. The activists have admitted to a string of arson attacks in the western United States in the late 1990s and the start of this decade. They torched places where things were done of which they disapproved, including a lab that they believed was growing genetically engineered poplar trees.

If the judge applies the requested enhancement, their sentences could be longer and the conditions of their imprisonment more severe. They are criminals, to be sure. Their arson cost millions of dollars and destroyed scientific work in progress. But although some of their more knuckleheaded actions could easily have accidentally hurt someone, their ethos was to
damage property, never to hurt or kill.

Other extreme activists are also being labelled terrorists. Last November, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act was signed into law in the United States. It creates tough penalties for damaging property, making threats and conspiring against zoos, animal labs and the like. Leaving aside the merits of this act, its very name enshrines into law the idea that destructive activists are terrorists.

As one of the communities targeted by these activists, scientists may be tempted to embrace this rhetoric. Indeed, many people have personally felt terrified by the actions of the most extreme. But 'terrorist' is a word so debased and loaded by political use that, if it has any meaning at all, it is counterproductive. There is no such objective thing as a terrorist. A criminal is a person who has been convicted of a crime. We can examine a person's records and make an unemotional determination of whether or not they are a criminal. But a terrorist is, in practice, a person who fights for a cause we do not believe in using methods that we
do not approve of.

Calling someone a terrorist is a value judgement. It is a value judgement that seems to be increasingly used in the United States since the attacks of 11 September 2001.

Unwise Branding (continued)

Indeed, the nation is waging, in official parlance, a "global war on terror". The term is useful politically exactly because it expresses an absolute rejection of a person and their aims. The terrorist label definitively ends any possibility of dialogue. But if there is any hope of bringing closer together those at the extremes of scientific controversies such as animal research and genetic engineering, the various parties must be able to speak to one another.

Although most activists feel that the actions of the criminal few are unproductive and embarrassing, for every activist saboteur with a lighted match there are hundreds of people who are sympathetic to his or her cause. Label that saboteur a terrorist, and you risk alienating all of them. Efforts to bring together defenders and attackers of animal research, such as those by the UK-based Boyd Group, often do not admit those who espouse criminal acts, and that is appropriate. And it leaves open the possibility that an activist who has renounced criminal actions can come to the table. But who will be willing to publicly break bread with a terrorist, reformed or otherwise?

We should avoid building an unbreachable wall between criminal activists and their victims. The judge in this case should reject the call for 'terrorism enhancement'. We must all speak more objectively and calmly.

The Press Office On Snitching

Stanislas Meyerhoff: 13 years.
Kevin Tubbs: 12 years, 7 months.
Chelsea Gerlach: 9 years.
Darren Thurston: 3 years 1 month.
Kendall Tankersley: 3 years, 10 months.
Suzanne Nicole Savoie: 4 years, 3 months.
Joyanna Zacher: 7 years, 8 months.
Nathan Block: 7 years, 8 months
Jonathan Paul: 4 years, 3 months
Daniel McGowan: 7 years
Bill Rogers: Deceased - alleged suicide in Flagstaff jail cell
Jacob Ferguson: Granted immunity from prosecution

The above twelve people were members of an interwoven ALF/ELF cell calling itself "The Family" and have been arrested and sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to thirteen years under a 65-count indictment for a string of twenty arsons. Stretching across five Northwestern states, causing $40 million in damages and involving a horsemeat packing plant, US Forest Service ranger stations, wild horse corrals used by the US Bureau of Land Management, an electrical tower, an SUV dealership, three forest products companies, a university horticultural center, a ski resort, and a police station, the group was a relentless reminder of the abuse by humans rained down on the planet and her inhabitants..

These arsons took place between 1997 and 2001. The activists remained free for basically ten years until Jacob Ferguson returned, claiming that he was being "watched" by federal agents who suspected his participation in the underground actions. What would your reaction have been? Most likely, the same as that of the rest of the group - to comfort and reassure your friend and fellow activist that he had nothing to worry about, that everyone took all precaution against leaving evidence, and that ten years had elapsed without incident. Would you have even dreamt that your comrade was wearing a wire and working for the FBI? Most likely not - and hence your response would be perfectly normal and understandable. You would have no reason to think that the situation was anything other than what it appeared - a fellow activist and friend alarmed by his belief that he was under surveillance and that the authorities were on to something. Your human inclination would be to offer immediate solace and to remind him that the group had been careful and a lot of time had intervened.

Law enforcement agents are experts on and will readily exploit "normal human emotions." They predicted - correctly - that the group members would do just what they did, which was to attempt to assuage their friend's concerns. And if the activists had stopped at that point, they likely would still be free. What the authorities really needed were the specifics - the particulars that only the activists could know and which would inescapably (pun intended) link them to their illegal escapades; dates, times, locations, and deeds. Jailed and threatened with lengthy prison terms, six more of the twelve activists (Meyerhoff, Tubbs, Gerlach, Thurston, Tankersley and Savoie) provided the state with evidence on themselves and others, corroborating the testimony of the original snitch, Jacob Ferguson. As each scared and dishonored former activist added their statements to the prosecution's case, they sealed the verdicts for everyone.

Historically, any underground arm of a liberation movement has needed a very strict security culture established the hard way by learning from its own and others mistakes. Sharing of information should occur on a need-to-know basis only - and never outside the cell. If some members of the group are excluded from an action, they should not be privy to its details. And once an action has been completed, it should never be discussed again. Ever. For any reason.

Unfortunately, the earth and animal liberation movement is rife with adherents that seem more interested in their image than the destruction of the planet and the suffering of non-human animals. For these activists who talk incessantly about who they know and who did what, prison time is something that they want to avoid at all cost, even the cost of sending their comrades to serve time. As the saying goes, "if you can't do the time, don't do the crime". The vast majority of earth and animal liberation actions are completed without anyone being captured or imprisoned, but anyone participating in these actions must be prepared for the possibility of police interrogations and even the possibility of being jailed. It comes with the territory, but as anyone who watches any of the litany of forensic television shows knows, without some silly suspect spilling his guts in the interrogation room, convictions are rare. Even with all the high-tech gizmos and gadgets that make for exciting television.

Think about this logically. If law enforcement had the evidence it required to arrest and convict, would it not do so without further ado? It must not have what it needs if it is forced to go to the trouble of fitting someone with a wire, getting people to talk, and convincing them to snitch! Returning to the subject of human emotions yet again, the authorities know that the most vulnerable psychological state is that of fear.

Sitting isolated in a prison cell and being threatened with draconian punishment is not the opportune moment to discover that one lacks the emotional stamina to withstand the pressure of interrogation. Now - not later - is the time to contemplate what it would mean to be confined for years to a tiny cell; to be separated from husband, wife, child, pet, and home; to be deprived of the sun on one's back, the wind in one's hair, and the freedom to do what and go where one pleases. This caveat is not intended to dissuade underground activism; rather, its purpose is to stress the importance of following simple security guidelines.

As a movement, we all have a responsibility to create a culture that encourages and supports direct action; there is too much at stake to leave activism to the organizations of pacifists that exist to draw six-figure salaries and rake in millions of donor dollars. Snitches are an aspect of our movement who should not and cannot be tolerated. Our moral outrage at these traitors should demand their exclusion from our ranks, but all too often they are tolerated and even encouraged by those around them. This sends the message to future activists that saving one's own skin is a viable option, and that repercussions will be minimal. Serious movements do not tolerate traitors; those dying in factory farms, laboratories, circuses and elsewhere deserve better. Never discuss the details of an action with other people, no matter how much you trust them - or yourself. Don't be afraid to fight for what you believe and know to be right - just abide by the security guidelines that will keep you free to continue the battle for those who have no one but you to defend them.

Oxford Vivisectionists are Swimming Against the Tide

By neurosurgeon Marius Maxwell

As a neurosurgeon and neuroscientist with two decades of research experience, I feel qualified to contribute to the debate on non-human primate vivisection. The arguments of the Weatherall Committee defy much current scientific evidence, and have served only to confirm my view that the data supporting non-human primate vivisection are profoundly flawed and together with the moral case are indefensible.

I concur with the findings of the crucial Perel study in the December 15th (2006) issue of the British Medical Journal (www.bmj.com), which represents a comprehensive and quantitative statistical meta-analysis to test the usefulness of a broad spectrum of animal based drug testing in predicting human outcomes. This analysis, which undermines the conclusions of the Weatherall Committee, found that only three of the six categories actually succeeded in predicting the results of subsequent human trials and that in all animal experimentation studied "the quality of the experiments was poor." No better than the toss of a coin in other words. The predictive power may actually be even worse, since the study found evidence of broad publication bias in those experiments that did predict human outcome. They concluded that "Discordance between animal and human studies may be due to bias or to the failure of animal models to mimic clinical disease adequately."

It is important to bear in mind that these six areas represent a vast cross section of animal based drug studies including stroke, head injury, systemic haemorrhage, neonatal respiratory distress and osteoporosis. A total of 228 published animal studies were evaluated representing many thousands of animal test subjects including non-human primates. This is only the last in a long series of studies critical of the predictive ability of animal experimentation to human health care with some yielding concordance rates as abysmally low as 5 per cent.

The ultimate effect of such imprecise animal-based research is reflected in tens of thousands of unnecessary human deaths before the responsible drugs are finally withdrawn. Examples include: the use of steroids in human head and spinal cord injury; drugs such as rtPA in stroke treatment; hormone replacement therapy (HRT); Vioxx; TG1412 at Northwick Park hospital; amrinone for heart failure; an Alzheimer's vaccine in 2001; and 80 HIV/Aids vaccines which have have failed in over 100 clinical trials, despite testing in non-human primates on a massive scale. The gratuitous use of non-human primates in much psychological and behavioural laboratory experimentation does, based on my review, infrequently fall short of scandalous. Alternative, state of the art non-animal-based methods of accurately predicting drug safety include microdosing and in vitro assays, human DNA chips, and virtual human organs.

The Weatherall Committee stated that research on animals, including non-human primates, might alleviate "continued suffering to very large numbers of humans..." But it is now clear that the use of animals in drug-screening is actually endangering countless human lives. Extensive, unbiased, and dispassionate meta-analyses of the accuracy and validity of animal research should be the only yardstick employed in this debate.

Doctors, pharmacists, and patients groups in the Netherlands are now demanding government action after a national study has found that drug related problems caused twice as many hospital admissions as motor vehicle accidents (www.bmj.com, 15th December 2006). The December 13th (2006) issue of Nature (www.nature.com) also has a timely but troubling review of animal research and demonstrates that the tide is changing inexorably against animal vivisection. There is discussion of the recent (December 2005) Swiss reform of an animal welfare law to protect the "dignity of creation" of animals. This rightly has had the effect of progressive denial of funding for non-human primate research.

Many are fond of claiming the importance of animal research to early scientific discoveries as if the same historical models bear any relevance at all to contemporary science. Obviously animal research in the past century, in the absence of better alternatives, has benefited mankind as did ancient studies of human anatomy. Michelangelo's anatomical drawings and William Harvey's description of human circulation spring to mind, but who would seriously argue that cadaveric dissection represents cutting-edge science today?

The field of Parkinson's Disease (PD) research was greatly stimulated by the therapeutic attempts of neurosurgeons using dopaminergic brain transplantation in animals and humans which came to the fore in the 1980's and have since largely receded. There have been too many false positives to record here. Many possible false negatives may also have been ignored as part of widely documented publication bias. The most common non-human primate model of PD results from monkeys being poisoned with the neurotoxin MPTP. It is widely acknowledged that profound disparities (anatomical, physiological, neurochemical, pathological, and temporal) exist between the MPTP non-human primate model and humans with idiopathic PD. Despite these paramount concerns of human reproducibility, hundreds of studies involving thousands of animals have followed with conflicting and non-predictive results. There is no evidence to suggest that their overall predictive concordance to human PD treatment, if subjected to the meticulous quantitative analyses of Perel and co-workers above, would exceed the best case 50:50 coin toss probability established.

Neurosurgeons have employed precise coordinated stereotactic techniques in the treatment of PD, with subtle variations in deep brain nuclear targets, since the 1950s based on human observation. The technique of deep brain stimulation (DBS) was discovered through experimentation in patients with PD (not in animals) in 1987. Though not a cure for PD, it does ameliorate some of the symptoms and is accompanied by a troubling incidence of depression, often suicidal. It is important to understand that ethical clinical research of actual consenting end stage human PD patients themselves has been conducted now for decades. Those are precisely the results that can be accurately translated to other human sufferers. Although researchers have rushed to duplicate and extend these studies in the neurotoxin non-human primate models, I am not persuaded that the nuances in deep brain nuclear therapeutic identification could not have been more accurately identified in the very PD patient cohorts which gave rise to the technique of DBS itself.

As an Oxford graduate I am appalled by the decision of Oxford University to proceed with the construction of the animal research laboratory on South Parks Road. They are swimming against the tide of international medical and ethical opinion. I fear that history will judge their animal rights opponents as less extreme than the very scientists who persist in non-human primate research in the face of an increasing body of consistent and compelling evidence that the resulting data has and will continue to endanger countless human lives.

The spectacle of a minority of Oxford animal researchers tirelessly promoting their claimed achievements before the media has caused me deep unease. They have surprisingly gone on record in backing the use of animals in cosmetic testing and urging the return to the use of great apes in experimentation, activities which have been illegal in the UK for many years. In my experience, the humility and reticence characteristic of truly eminent scientists precludes such behaviour and the protagonists should understand that because of obvious bias they should be the very last people to loudly judge the merits of their own work. The recent BBC2 documentary (Monkeys, Rats and Me, 27th November, 2006) on non-human primate vivisection was wholly emotional and lacking in any truly scientific balance or objectivity. I found the images of severely affected patients being presented to back their doctor's various therapeutic assertions to be regrettable. This is not the way to present a controversial scientific case for critical public evaluation. Many of my Oxford colleagues in world-class scientific laboratories, and in the humanities, are privately aghast at the ability of a small group of media-savvy vivisectionists to hold the debate hostage and thereby besmirch the international reputation of their University. They are unwilling to broadcast their opinions because of

Swimming Against the Tide (continued)

the perceived danger of recrimination by the University and funding bodies.

The techniques and language of frontier-breaking molecular genetic technology, for example, are largely unintelligible to those unschooled in their use and therefore pose hurdles to inter-disciplinary scientific understanding. This may be an explanation for why many vivisectionists are not fully aware of all the applicable developments in other facets of enquiry into the same disease and seem overly anxious to declare emphatically and prematurely that no alternatives to non-human primate research can conceivably exist in the foreseeable future. You may add to this the natural human reluctance of animal researchers to turn their back on many years of endeavour and learn anew contemporary scientific protocols.

British neurosurgical colleagues of mine have expressed concerns that the acrimonious debate over non-human primate vivisection and functional neurosurgery (such as DBS) at Oxford has begun to detract from and overshadow many other achievements of their profession. DBS is an important and successful adjunct to the treatment of PD, is derived from experimentation on human subjects, and helps less than 1% of all neurosurgical patients. They are also worried about the wisdom and balance of allocation of precious financial resources within the cash-strapped NHS and medical research sectors.

The 'spin' perpetuated by overly credulous and biased media reporting that opponents of animal experimentation are 'anti-science Luddites' is hollow. How on earth can an animal researcher still claim to be pro-science while wilfully ignoring the vast body of current evidence undermining broad swathes of animal research? It is extraordinary how many media reports of the significance of recent studies casting doubt upon the accuracy and reliability of animal research are casually undermined by the irrelevant assertion that they will only serve as grist to the mill for "animal rights activists." Surely the end-point of the debate should be human safety. Simply stated, the fact of the matter is that animal research in general has now been revealed to be dodgy science which ultimately endangers human lives.

The debate is further muddied by the strident claims of dubious 'citizens' groups. Their sources of funding should be scrutinised before their claims of legitimacy can be believed. This activity is reminiscent of the tactics employed by tobacco companies to cast doubt and aspersions upon the vital causal link established between cigarette smoking and lung cancer by the Oxford epidemiologist Sir Richard Doll in 1950. By deliberately delaying the societal recognition of the dangers of smoking for decades, untold deaths were caused. Parallels with tobacco litigation are being developed by various plaintiffs' lawyers involved in class action suits against drug manufacturers and will demonstrate that the latter have long been aware of the dangerous imprecision of animal drug testing models to human outcomes thereby making them liable for punitive damages.

History has a tendency of repeating itself, I thought, as I recently read the scathing report of the planning inspector who conducted the public enquiry into Cambridge University's controversial primate laboratory in 2002. He concluded that no national need for brain research on primates had been demonstrated. Cambridge University wisely cancelled the project. The economic reasons for non-human primate research, while obvious and most lucrative are shortsighted and damaging, and are no more compelling now than they were in 2002. Research and development of more accurate and more ethical alternatives will easily fill the income shortfall to the University following a much-needed moratorium on non-human primate research.

I would urge that the South Parks Road building be made into a world-class medical imaging and research centre. The explosion of imaging techniques over the past decade (functional MRI being but one) has alone obviated the need for non-human primate vivisection especially in the neurosciences. Humans can and are being studied in ways that would have been unimaginable only ten years ago. The eighteen million pounds for the animal research building could be better spent by Oxford University with a more inspired, rational and forward-looking appreciation of the trajectory of medical research technology.

It is clear to anyone who cares to study the matter closely, honestly and objectively that the scientific justification for non-human primate vivisection is unsound. I cannot accept that its practitioners really believe it to be morally or ethically defensible either. The argument that supports non-human primate experimentation because of close kinship to humans but, blind to their moral worth, denies them ethical rights is sinister and repugnant. The resigned and credulous "Nasty but necessary" defence of non-human primate research coined by a Guardian Leader (13th December, 2006) is simplistic, naive, and selectively ignores the mountain of conflicting scientific data.

Sadly, history reminds us that doctors and scientists have often been blind to the moral dimensions of their work. It is instructive to recall that only little more than sixty years ago, unspeakable and nightmarish forced human vivisection was performed by the notorious Unit 731 of the Japanese Army during development of their wartime chemical and biological weapons programmes (The Guardian, 27th November, 2006).

The general public, a clear majority of whom is opposed to animal research, deserves to be educated about the dangers of and protected from adverse drug reactions stemming from weak and outdated animal research protocols. If scientists as a group fail to serve society by adequately and transparently policing the dangers and inconsistencies of their own research, parliament will have to step in to insist upon a rigorously objective assessment of all aspects of the drug safety testing process.

Indeed, the Toxicology Working Group of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific procedures in 2002 recommended that "the reliability and relevance of all existing animal tests should be reviewed as a matter of urgency."

Following the recent catastrophic Northwick Park clinical study, 250 MPs (a clear majority of those eligible to do so) signed Early Day Motion 92: "That this House, in common with Europeans for Medical Progress, expresses its concerns regarding the safeguarding of public health through data obtained from laboratory animals, particularly in light of large numbers of serious and fatal adverse drug reactions that were not predicted from animal studies; is concerned that the Government has not commissioned or evaluated any formal research on the efficacy of animal experiments, and has no plans to do so; and, in common with 83 per cent of general practitioners in a recent survey, calls upon the Government to facilitate an independent and transparent scientific evaluation of the use of animals as surrogate humans in drug safety testing and medical research."

This issue fundamentally turns upon absolute scientific objectivity, integrity and morality. The controversy will continue to afflict the University, will not dissipate and cannot be legislated away. Scientific and non-scientific anti-vivisectionists alike have every right to be heard and to occupy the moral high ground of their esteemed Oxford forebears Johnson, Ruskin and Lewis. The end of non-human primate experimentation is nigh and I suspect that its few remaining adherents well know it. The construction of the South Parks Road animal facility will continue to fester like a "carbuncle on the face of an old friend" until the University finally comes to its senses and has it excised.

"I know not by doing any living dissection any discovery [that] has been made by which a single man is more easily cured," wrote Samuel Johnson the eighteenth century Oxford lexicographer who condemned doctors who "extend the art of torture" by performing research on animals. Time has finally proven the good Doctor right.

Trust Me I'm a Vivisector!

From Arkangel Magazine

Huntingdon Life Science (HLS) are in the business of saving lives. Yours, mine, babies in incubators and thousands of other people. Admittedly a few animals are used to achieve this, but these are human lives they're saving, and there's no other way of screening drugs to make sure they're safe. That's the claim, repeated at every opportunity, and the one which we need to demolish if we're ever going to see HLS removed.

In 1999, Merck, a client of HLS, announced that they had produced Vioxx, a painkiller that was as effective as anything else on the market but which did not have the potentially fatal side effects of other "non-steroidal anti-inflammatories" or NSAIDs, such as naproxen and ibuprofen. The company also claimed in Vioxx's early marketing days that the drug could relieve arthritis and cure colon cancer.

In October 2000, Merck supplied the FDA with a string of death reports involving heart attacks and strokes. In 2005, a public scandal involving the deaths of thousands of people due to Vioxx made headlines worldwide. Merck now faces in the region of 9650 lawsuits over Vioxx in the United States alone, and it is estimated that the drug is responsible for the deaths of at least 2000 people in the UK.

GlaxoSmithKline are another well known customer of HLS, so maybe HLS were the ones who ensured Lotronex (indicated for women with severe irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)) was safe before it was released on the market. Lotronex caused five deaths in America and was withdrawn in February 2000. Another 93 known patients had to have surgery due to the effects of Lotronex, including removal of the colon. In clinical trials 27% of Lotronex patients suffered severe constipation, compared to 5% in a group taking no active treatment. GSK can't claim they were trying to save lives with Lotronex, it was a treatment for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), a condition which causes discomfort but is not serious - unlike the serious conditions Lotronex caused.

GSK were also the manufacturers of Raxar, an antibiotic which was withdrawn in December 1999 after thirteen deaths. Raxar disrupted the QT interval (in other words, made the heartbeat irregular), yet was not necessary because there were already plenty of satisfactory antibiotics. Maybe this was tested at HLS. Maybe they also helped gain approval for Avelox, a drug their customer Bayer released just weeks after Raxar was withdrawn. Another antibiotic which was found to influence the QT interval, within a year it was cited in reports of eighteen deaths.

Another customer, Roche, released Posicor in the summer of 1997. Maybe it was being tested on the animals featured in the "Countryside Undercover" programme which was released soon after. 100 reported deaths were filed by the following June, and even Roche admitted that Posicor patients had a death rate 10% higher than those on similar treatments. Posicor was a treatment for high blood pressure, and offered nothing that exisiting, safer drugs couldn't offer. An official from the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who oversees drug approval said of Posicor "there are a lot of other effective therapies out there, why not be safe with the public?". If they had been, those 100 people would probably be alive today.

Redux was a diet pill made by American Home Products (AHP), another HLS customer. In 17 months on the market, 123 deaths were linked with it by the FDA. Heart valve damage and respiratory problems caused by the drug were widespread, and damages for each category are expected to reach $4,750 million.

Duract, Lotronex, Posicor and Redux were among seven drugs examined by the Los Angeles Times in a thorough investigation into the drug approval process. One of the most significant conclusions they found was that deaths recorded are just the tip of the iceberg. They interviewed Dr. Brian L. Strom, chairman of epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania and a renown expert on the matter. "The underreporting is vast" he says, estimating reported deaths to represent around 1 -10% of all side effects, meaning the figures quoted above may be more accurate if multiplied by ten or even 100. David Bates, the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that reported events represent around 5% of the total figure. The LA Times study of just seven of the thousands of drugs on the market in recent years counted 1,002 deaths.

As so few deaths are reported, this means the reality is that at least 10,020 people were killed by these drugs in America, and possibly more than 100,000. To use David Bates' estimate of 5%, we come to the conclusion that EACH of those drugs took one human life on average every 4 hours 41 minutes of every day and night it was on the market. Bates' estimate came in the April 1998 issue of JAMA, in response to an article in that edition which studied 39 previous studies of drug side effects and concluded that 106,000 people are killed every year in America alone by prescription drugs, and over 2.2 million are hospitalised by them. This was stressed to only include drugs which were "properly prescribed and properly administered".

In the UK the situation is similar. Earl Baldwin commented in the House of Lords in 1998 (Hansard, Dec 12th 1998) that deaths from drug side effects were the third biggest cause of death, which is more than all cancers combined. A UK medical journal [Nature Medicine 2000; 6:502-503] once noted "In England, an estimated 70,000 deaths and cases of severe disability occur each year because of adverse reactions to prescription drugs".

So how did these drugs get passed for use in humans in the first place? The LA Times found details of human trials which followed the animal tests, and in every case cited, the human trials indicated that the drugs which had passed the animal tests spelt danger, and staff at the FDA recommended against approval. But the crazy belief in animal testing had led these drug producers to a state of mind where they were prepared to ignore the results of the human trials and believe the contrived animal results instead. The reality is that these drugs would never have got to human trial stage at all if there wasn't a package of animal data to back up the claim for approval, and the production of this selective report which aims to present a claim for a licence, as opposed to assessing safety, is the business of HLS.

It's also easy when you use animals. With dozens of species available and scores of substrains within each species, not to mention different dose levels, dose periods and test conditions, you can get the results you want. Rather than hoping the results come out as you want them, you can actually make them come out right. Professor Pieto Croce, an ex vivisector, quotes examples of what you can 'prove' if you use the right species. You can prove lemon juice parsley, penicillin, the essential heart drug digitalis, chloroform or even water are dangerous to humans. You can also prove that arsenic, strychnine, hemlock, the deathcap toadstool and prussic acid are safe for humans. Had we not already learned our lesson from the effects on humans, Thalidomide (which caused 10,000 birth defects), Ecainide and Flecainide (3,000 deaths), Clioquinol, Eraldin and countless other drugs which are known to blind, injure and kill humans could gain approval from the animal method. In fact, that's how they were approved initially.

HLS are under pressure to do exactly that with the drugs their customers submit for "screening", or for developing a package of sympathetic, irrelevant results, to put it another way. Each drug may have cost in the region of £100 million to produce, so the manufacturers want it out whether it works or not, whether it's safe or not. Dr. Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA's drug review center acknowledged in an article she wrote in 1997 "there are economic pressures to get drugs on the market as soon as possible", and it's worth remembering that if HLS continue to perform the expectations of their customers, they will continue to get work. In other words, they have to give them the results they want, whether it's the truth or not.

Trust Me (continued)

Even when this method backfires, and a drug company finds itself with the families of victims killed by their drugs suing them, this system protects itself. For one, it protects against court cases. In order to win a case, the victim has to prove negligence on the part of the drug company. A standard reply to this claim is generally reference to the hundreds of animal tests done - how could a company which spent all these resources on animal experiments be negligent?

Admittedly, sometimes they pay out to victims. But in practice it's a small part of the turnover generated by the drugs. Each of the seven drugs examined by the LA Times brought in an average $1.3 million dollars each every day they were on the market. While the drug company lawyers argue that victims had pre-existing conditions, the revenue often covers resulting pay-outs with plenty to spare. The message from the drug companies is clear: they will still sell a drug if it's dangerous, because the sales generally outweigh the damages they pay afterwards. And the way to get it passed is to use a contract animal lab.

Much of what's been quoted above has been centred on the situation in the USA, where the information researched by the LA Times has been so comprehensive. But there's no indication that the United Kingdom, with it's government rushing to the defence of the pharmaceutical companies at every opportunity, is any different. If we have the same rates of death and illness caused by drugs as the States, the conclusions are no less appalling. It would mean that we have over 20,000 people killed in our country every year as a result of pharmaceutical drugs, which is one every twenty six minutes.

Patients requiring hospital treatment to treat the effects of drugs would number over 400,000 every year - or one every fifteen and a half minutes of every day and every night. These are men, women and children - often the "babies in incubators", Cass is so keen to claim will be saved by his Company.

Maybe Brian Cass would like to speak to a parent of a child killed by Propulsid? This heart burn treatment passed animal tests and was available in America until recently despite other suitable treatments being readily available. The reported deaths numbered 302 people, (which means in reality deaths were probably around 6,000) and included many children and babies under one year old, who died from heart disruptions caused by the drug. It was withdrawn in March 2000. At least two other subsections of Johnson & Johnson are known to use HLS, so the subsidiary Janssen who manufactured Propulsid may have been permitted thanks to data concocted by HLS. In the clinical trials in 1993 the drug dangerously disrupted the heart rhythm, and killed eight children under six years old. It was still prescribed to children for gastric reflux, a minor ailment which does little more than disturb the sleep of babies under one year. Deaths continued. Johnson & Johnson made educational grants to the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, who admitted they were receiving "generous support" from J & J. Their literature advised doctors that Propulsid was effective and safe in children. As late as October 1998 the NASPGN held a symposium on the use of Propulsid years after they knew it killed children.

In recent years, the dangerous drugs released by HLS customers have been numerous. Bayer's heart drug Baycol (lipobay) killed 50 and was hastily withdrawn, and their skin cream Canestan caused pain so severe it actually lead to suicide. Acetylcoline caused heart attacks. Bristol Myers-Squibb caused facial swelling with their drug Vanlev, 14 deaths with the shingles drug Sorivudine, heart attacks with the cholesterol drug Lipostat, and deaths with Clopidogrel. Eli Lilly, who killed 61 and injured 3,000 with Opren, have also brought out Fialuridine, which has caused liver damage in half of patients. In addition to the ones already mentioned, GlaxoSmithKline have released Imigraine, Zyban, Seroxat, Relenza, Septrin, Phenylpropanolamine (PPA), Sumatripan, Flovent, Selacryn, Wellbutrin, and Ridaura, which have all caused illness, injury or death. Merck have released Rofecoxid, which caused strokes, and Zomax, the arthritis drug which killed people. Novartis's Zelmac (for IBS) caused side effects, their Clozapine caused a blood disorder, and Methysergide caused scarring of the heart, kidneys and blood vessels.

The list goes on, with many serious effects caused by drugs produced by HLS customers. Contract testing has to be among the lowest methods, legal or otherwise, of making a living. It is the practice of ensuring a product is permitted, whether it's worthwhile or not, whether it's safe or dangerous. In the case of HLS, we also know it's done to standards beneath even the rest of this despicable industry.

Where else have staff been filmed punching dogs, dissecting a live monkey or pretending to have sex with the animals? Where else is drunkenness, drug dealing and falsification of data met with such indifference? The only customers left at HLS are those with the lowest standards. Those who are happy to accept the incompetence of HLS, the ones who don't give a damn for anything except getting products on the market and earning them money, whatever the cost in terms of lives and injuries, human or animal. This is the reality of the vivisection industry, and of the lives that are wrecked and ended by companies like HLS. If the lie that HLS is in the business of helping humanity survive, so will HLS. If it is finished, so is HLS. The evidence allows only one conclusion.

Misssouri Animal Research Lab Agrees to Settle for Animal Welfare Act Violations

A Callaway County animal research lab has agreed to pay a $33,000 civil penalty after investigators alleged the company committed nearly 40 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture filed the complaint against Sinclair Research Center in October 2006, more than three years after animal rights activists targeted the lab in an undercover sting.

Among the alleged violations found by Agriculture Department inspectors: failing to provide sheep with appropriate pain relief during surgery; inadequate training of employees for animal handling and care; failure to vaccinate research dogs and cats; and keeping animals in cages smaller than the legal limits. 'The gravity of the violations alleged in this complaint is great,' the report concluded.

The Agriculture Department also accused Sinclair Research of a 'lack of good faith' for conducting research at a location not known to the federal agency. The company had no previous animal welfare violations but had been issued a written warning for failing to submit an annual report. In a Feb. 28 settlement, Sinclair Research agreed to pay the fine and to 'cease and desist' from further violations of federal law. 'It was a business decision,' said company owner Guy Bouchard. 'We had to resolve it promptly.

The federal inspections that triggered the complaint came several months after People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released a series of video recordings showing animals it said had been mistreated. The secret recordings were made by a PETA employee who had also been hired by the research lab.The PETA investigation prompted two of the research lab's biggest customers to sever ties: pet-food-maker Iams and pet-food-supplier Menu Foods. Iams is owned by Procter & Gamble.

Menu Foods recently recalled more than 60 million cans and pouches of pet food nationwide after the deaths of at least 16 household pets due to suspected rat poison found in food.Bouchard purchased Sinclair Research, formerly known as Reproductive and Toxicology Consultation Services, from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1994. Bouchard was a university employee before he started Sinclair Research. The company was previously located in Columbia on university property. It has since moved to the town of Hatton, near Auxvasse in western Callaway County.

Sinclair Research, which has a site in Windham, Maine, is also a licensed dealer of research animals. According to the Agriculture Department, the company sold more than 6,500 animals for a combined revenue of at least $4.5 million from 2001 to 2004. [Associated Press]

Rethinking Revolution: Animal Liberation, Human Liberation, and the Future of the Left

By Steven Best, Ph.D., originally published Cyrano's Journal

Introduction: Framing the Unframed Issue

It seems lost on most of the global anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist Left that there is a new liberation movement on the planet - animal liberation - that is of immense ethical and political significance. But because animal liberation challenges the anthropocentric, speciesist, and humanist dogmas that are so deeply entrenched in socialist and anarchist thinking and traditions, Leftists are more likely to mock than engage it.

For the last three decades, the animal liberation movement (ALM) has been one of the most dynamic and important political forces on the planet. Where "new social movements" such as Black Liberation, Native American, feminism, chicano/a, and various forms of Green and identity politics have laid dormant or become co-opted, the animal liberation movement has kept radical resistance alive and has steadily grown in numbers and strength.

Unlike animal welfare approaches that lobby for the amelioration of animal suffering, the ALM demands the total abolition of all forms of animal exploitation. Seeking empty cages not bigger cages, the ALM is the major anti-slavery and abolitionist movement of the present day, one with strong parallels to its 19th century predecessor struggling to end the slavery of African-Americans in the US. As a major expression of the worldwide ALM, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) has cost exploitation industries hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage and has decommissioned numerous animal exploiters through raids and sabotage. The FBI has demonized the ALF (along with the Earth Liberation Front [ELF]) as the top "domestic terrorist" group in the US, and the ALM in general is a principle target of draconian "anti-terrorist" legislation in US and the UK.

Operating on a global level -- from the UK, US, and Germany to France, Norway, and Russia - the ALM attacks not only the ideologies of capitalism that promote growth, profit, and commodification, but the property system itself with hammers and Molotov cocktails. Fully aware of the realities of the corporate-state complex, the ALM breaks with the fictions of representative democracy to undertake illegal direct action for animals held captive in fur farms, factory farms, experimental laboratories, and other gruesome hell holes where billions of animals die each year.

Since the fates of all species on this planet are intricately interrelated, the exploitation of animals cannot but have a major impact on the human world itself.[1] When human beings exterminate animals, they devastate habitats and ecosystems necessary for their own lives. When they butcher farmed animals by the billions, they ravage rainforests, turn grasslands into deserts, exacerbate global warming, and spew toxic wastes into the environment. When they construct a global system of factory farming that requires prodigious amounts of land, water, energy, and crops, they squander vital resources and aggravate the problem of world hunger. When humans are violent toward animals, they often are violent toward one another, a tragic truism validated time and time again by serial killers who grow up abusing animals and violent men who beat the women, children, and animals of their home. The connections go far deeper, as evident if one examines the scholarship on the conceptual and technological relations between the domestication of animals at the dawn of agricultural society and the emergence of patriarchy, state power, slavery, and hierarchy and domination of all kinds.

In countless ways, the exploitation of animals rebounds to create crises within the human world itself. The vicious circle of violence and destruction can end only if and when the human species learns to form harmonious relations - non-hierarchical and non-exploitative -- with other animal species and the natural world. Human, animal, and earth liberation are interrelated projects that must be fought for as one.

This essay asserts the need for more expansive visions and politics on both sides of the human/animal liberation equation, as it calls for new forms of dialogue, learning, and strategic alliances. Each movement has much to learn from the other. In addition to gaining new insights into the dynamics of hierarchy, domination, and environmental destruction from animal rights perspectives, Leftists should grasp the gross inconsistency of advocating values such as peace, non-violence, compassion, justice, and equality while exploiting animals in their everyday lives, promoting speciesist ideologies, and ignoring the ongoing holocaust against other species that gravely threatens the entire planet. Conversely, the animal rights community generally (apart from the ALM) is politically naive, single-issue oriented, and devoid of a systemic anti-capitalist theory and politics necessary for the true illumination and elimination of animal exploitation, areas where it can profit great from discussions with the Left.

Thus, I attempt to demonstrate the importance of rethinking human and animal liberation movements in light of each other, suggesting ways this might proceed. The domination of humans, animals, and the earth stem from the same power pathology of hierarchy and instrumentalism, such as can only be fully revealed and transformed by a multiperspectival theory and alliance politics broader and deeper than anything yet created. I begin with some basic historical and sociological background of the AAM, and show how the Left traditionally has responded to animal advocacy issues. I then engage the views of Takis Fotopoulos, the founder of Inclusive Democracy, and conclude with a call for mutual dialogue and learning among animal and human liberationists.

The Diversity of the Animal Advocacy Movement

The ALM is only part, by far still the smallest part, of a growing social movement for the protection of animals I call the animal advocacy movement (AAM). The AAM has three major different (and sharply conflicting) tendencies: animal welfare, animal rights, and animal liberation. The AAM movement had humble welfarist beginnings in the early 19th century with the founding of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in Britain and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in the US.[2] Welfare organizations thereafter spread widely throughout these and other Western countries, addressing virtually every form of animal abuse. The goal of welfare organizations, however, has never been eliminating the institutions that exploit animals - be they research laboratories, factory farms, slaughterhouses, fur farms, or circuses and rodeos - but rather reducing or ameliorating animal suffering within such violent and repressive structures. Welfarists acknowledge that animals have interests, but they believe these can be legitimately sacrificed or traded away if there is some overridingly compelling human interest at stake (which invariably is never too trivial to defend against substantive animal interests). Welfarists simply believe that animals should not be caused "unnecessary" pain, and hold that any harm or death inflicted on them must be done "humanely."[3]

In bold contrast, animal rights advocates reject the utilitarian premises of welfarism that allows the happiness, freedom, and lives of animals to be sacrificed to some alleged greater human need or purpose. The philosophy of animal rights did not emerge in significant form until the publication of Tom Regan's seminal work, The Case for Animal Rights (1983). According to Regan and other animal rights theorists, a basic moral equality exists among human and nonhuman animals in that they are sentient, and therefore have significant interests and preferences (such as not to feel pain) that should be protected and respected. Moreover, Regan argues, many animal species (chimpanzees, dolphins, cats, dogs, etc.) are akin to humans by having the type of cognitive characteristics that make them "subjects of a life," whereby they have complex mental abilities that include memory, self-consciousness, and the ability to conceive of a future. Arguments that only humans have rights because they are the only animals that have reason and language, besides being factually wrong, are completely irrelevant as sentience is a necessary and sufficient condition for having rights.

Rethinking Revolution (continued)

Sharply opposed to the welfarist philosophies of the mainstream AAM and utilitarian philosophers like Peter Singer, proponents of animal rights argue that the intrinsic value and basic rights of animals cannot be trumped by any appeal to an alleged greater (human) good. Animals' interests cannot be sacrificed no matter what good consequence may result (such as an alleged advance in medical knowledge). Just as most people believe that it is immoral to sacrifice a human individual to a "greater good" if it improves the overall social welfare, so animal rights proponents persuasively apply the same reasoning to animals. If animals have rights, it is no more valid to use them in medical experimentation than it is to use human beings; for the scientific cause can just as well - in truth, far better - be advanced through human experimentation, but ethics and human rights forbids it.

The position of animal rights is an abolitionist position that demands the end to all instances and institutions of animal exploitation, not merely reducing suffering; like its 19th century predecessor, it demands the eradication of slavery, not better treatment of the slaves. Yet, although opposed to welfarism in its embrace of egalitarianism, rights, and abolitionism, most animal rights advocates are one with welfarists in advocating strictly legal forms of change through education and legislation. Like welfarists, animal rights advocates typically accept the legitimacy of capitalist economic, political, and legal institutions, and rarely possess the larger social/political/economic context required to understand the inherently exploitative logic of capital and the structural relationship between market and state.

The adherence to bourgeois ideology that justice can be achieved by working through the pre-approved channels of the state, which is utterly corrupt and dominated by corporate interests, separates animal liberationists from rights and welfare proponents.[4] Sometimes grounding their positions in rights philosophy, and sometimes rejecting or avoiding philosophical foundations for emphases on practical action, the ALM nonetheless seeks total liberation of animals through direct attacks on animal exploiters. Unique in its broad, critical vision, the ALM rejects capitalism, imperialism, and oppression and hierarchy of all kinds. Unlike the single-issue focus of the welfare and rights camps, the ALM supports all human struggles for liberation and sees the oppression of humans, animals, and earth as stemming from the same core causes and dynamics. The ALM is predominantly anarchist in ideology, temperament, and organization. Believing that the state is a tool of corporate interests and that the law is the opiate of the people, the ALM seeks empowerment and results through illegal direct action, such as rescue raids, break-ins, and sabotage. One major form of the ALM is the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which emerged in England in 1976, spread to the US by 1980, and therefore became a global movement active in over 20 countries. Whereas some elements of the ALM advocate violence against animal exploiters, the ALF adopts a non-violent credo that attacks the property but never causes injury to human life.[5]

Thus, the main division within the AAM is not between welfare and rights, as commonly argued, but rather between statist and non-statist approaches. Only the radical elements in the ALM challenge the myths of representative democracy, as they explore direct action and live in anarchist cultures. Clearly, the ALM is closest to the concerns of ID and other radical Left approaches, although it too has significant political limitations (see below).

But the pluralism of the AAM movement is not only a matter of competing welfare, rights, and liberation perspectives. Its social composition cuts across lines of class, gender, religion, age, and politics. Republicans, democrats, Leftists, anarchists, feminists, anti-humanists, anarcho-primitivists, Greens, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and others comprise the complexity and diversity of the AAM. Unlike the issue of class struggle and labor justice, one can advocate compassion for animals from any political position, such as is clear from the influential books and articles of Matthew Scully, former speechwriter for George W. Bush.[6] However repugnant one might find Scully's past or current political stands, his work has had a significant influence on wide range of people, such as republican elites, who otherwise would never had been sensitized to the wide spectrum of appalling cruelties to animals.

Such political diversity is both a virtue and vice. While it maximizes the influence of the AAM within the public realm, and thereby creates new legislative opportunities for animal welfare policies, there is nevertheless a lack of philosophical and political coherence, splintering the "movement" into competing and conflicting fragments. Overwhelmingly reformist and single-issue oriented (in addition to being largely white and middle/upper class), the AAM lacks a systemic social critique that grasps capital logic as a key determining force of animal exploitation and recognizes the state as a corporate-dominated structure resistant to significant social change. While there is no "animal advocacy movement" in the singular that one can build bridges with in the struggle against capitalism, there are nonetheless progressive elements within the ALM camp that understand the nature of capitalism and the state and are open to, and often experienced in, radical alliance politics. The ALM, thereby, is a potentially important force of social change, not only in relation to its struggle against animal exploitation and capitalist industries but also as an element of and catalyst to human and earth liberation struggles.

Toward A Sociology of the ALM

"We're very dangerous philosophically. Part of the danger is that we don't buy into the illusion that property is worth more than life ... we bring that insane priority into the light, which is something the system cannot survive." --David Barbarash, former spokesman for the ALF

"We're a new breed of activism. We're not your parents' Humane Society. We're not Friends of Animals. We're not Earthsave. We're not Greenpeace. We come with a new philosophy. We hold the radical line. We will not compromise. We will not apologize, and we will not relent." -- Kevin Jonas, founder of SHAC USA

Despite a large volume of literature on animal rights and animal liberation, and its growing political prominence, humanist and Left scholars have ignored the sociological meaning and import of animal rights/liberation struggles.[7] In this section, I seek to rectify this speciesist oversight and gross omission with a broad sociological contextualization of the animal rights/liberation struggles of the last three decades.

In the context of recent social history, one might see the ALM, first, as a "new social movement" with roots in the struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. Often described as "post-class" and "post-materialist," new social movements seek not higher wages but rather the end of hierarchies and new relations with the natural world. Once the labor movement was co-opted and contained after World War II, the dynamics of social struggle shifted from the capital-labor relation to broader issues of justice, freedom, and identity politics. People of color, students, feminists, gays and lesbians, peace and anti-nuclear activists, and environmentalists fought for new kinds of issues. The contemporary animal rights/liberation movements were born in the social milieu generated by the movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and form an important part of movements for progressive change. This is a consequence of their critique of hierarchy, instrumentalism, and the domination of nature in the form of nonhuman species, their contribution to environmentalism, and their role in advancing the ethic of nonviolence.

New social movements play out in a postindustrial capitalist society where the primary economic dynamics no longer involve processing of physical materials but rather consumerism, entertainment, mass media, and information. Transnational corporations such as Microsoft, Monsanto, and Novartis demonstrate the importance of science and research for the postindustrial economy. Although not recognized as such, a second way of viewing the ALM is to recognize that it is part of the contemporary anti-capitalist and anti/alter-globalization movement

Rethinking Revolution (continued)

that attacks the corporate-dominated "globalization form above" from democratic visions manifest in the struggle for "globalization from below."[8]

knowledge complex, and this is driven by animal experimentation, animal liberation challenges global capitalism, in the form of what I will call the Global Vivisection Complex (GVC). More specifically, I will identify this new oppositional force the direct action anti-vivisection movement (DAAVM). This movement has emerged as a serious threat to biomedical research industries. In the UK, for example, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical research industries are the third largest contributor to the economy; an attack on this science complex is an attack on the UK state and global capital in general. To date, the ALM in the UK and US has shut down numerous animal breeders, stopped construction of a number of major research centers, and forced HLS off the New York Stock Exchange. Clearly, the ALM is a major social force and political force. If the Left does not yet recognize this, transnational research capital and the UK and US governments certainly do, for they have demonized the ALM as a top domestic terrorist threat and are constructing police states to wage war against it.

The GVC is a matrix of power-knowledge reflecting the centrality of science in postindustrial society. It is comprised of pharmaceutical industries, biotechnology industries, medical research industries, universities, and testing laboratories. All these institutions use animals to test and market their drugs; animals are the gas and oil without which corporate science machines cannot function. As corporations like Huntingdon Life Sciences and Chiron are global in scope and have clients throughout the world, animal liberation groups such as the ALF and Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC) are also global in their resistance. A seemingly local group like Stop Newchurch Guinea Pigs (NSGP), which waged aggressive war in an English village against a family who breed guinea pigs for research in England, is also part of the anti-globalization movement because the family they attacked - and ultimately shut down -- supplied animals to the GVC. Whatever the political views of anti-vivisectionists -- whether libertarian, free market, socialist, or anarchist - they are monkeywrenching globalization from above. The DAAVM disrupts corporate supply chains, thwarts their laboratory procedures, and liberates their captive slaves.

Besides the economic threat of the DAAVM, it also poses a strong philosophical and ideological threat by attacking the ideological legitimacy of animal-based "science." The powerful, fact-based assault on the legitimacy of vivisection mounted by the DAAVM and animal rights movements is an assault on the authority of Science itself, an attack on the modern Church of Reason. The anti-vivisection movement exposes the fallacies of vivisection and reveals how science serves the interests of corporations such that objectivity is something to be bought and sold (e.g., junk science and falsified data to dispute global warming was funded by energy corporations such as Exxon-Mobil).

Like the Christian church in its hey day, the popes and priests of Science are compelled to defend their authority and power by attacking and discrediting their opponents (in academia and elsewhere). Science exerts a strong influence over government and has the power to create new laws and enforce its interests. Thus, due to intense pressure from Science, the DAAVM in the UK and US has come under fierce attack by the corporate-state complex. Both UK and US governments have placed severe limitations on free speech rights and, ultimately, have criminalized dissent, such as evident in UK laws against "glorification of terrorism" and the repressive measures if the USA PATRIOT Act. Both states have applied draconian "anti-terrorist" laws against animal liberationists and imposed harsh jail sentences for "harassment" or sabotage actions.

Thus, the DAAVM is facing the wrath of the secular church; just as Galileo said that the earth moves around the sun, so anti-vivisectionists say that research performed on one species does not apply to research performed on another, and the ALM as a whole assert that humans belong to the earth, and the earth does not belong to them. As the peace movements exposed the madness of the military-industrial complex, the anti-nuclear movement emphasized the destructive potential of nuclear power; and the environmental movement showed the ecological consequences of a growth economy, so the ARM brings to light the barbarism of enlightenment and fallacies of biomedical research.

If the ALM can be seen as a new social movement, and as an anti-capitalist and alter- globalization movement, it can also be viewed in a third way I have emphasized, namely that it is a contemporary anti-slavery and abolitionist movement.[9] Just as nineteenth century abolitionists sought to awaken people to the greatest moral issue of the day involving the slavery of millions of people in a society created around the notion of universal rights, so the new abolitionists of the 21st century endeavor to enlighten people about the enormity and importance of animal suffering and oppression. As black slavery earlier raised fundamental questions about the meaning of American "democracy" and modern values, so current discussion regarding animal slavery provokes critical examination into a human psyche damaged by violence, arrogance, and alienation, and the urgent need for a new ethics and sensibility rooted in respect for all life. Animals in experimental laboratories, factory farms, fur farms, leather factories, zoos, circuses, rodeos, and other exploitative institutions are the major slave and proletariat force of contemporary capitalist society. Each year, throughout the globe, they are confined, exploited, and killed - "murdered" is not an inappropriate term - by the billions. The raw materials of the human economy (a far greater and more general domination system than capitalism), animals are exploited for their fur, flesh, and bodily fluids. Stolen from the wild, bred and raised in captivity, held in cages and chains against their will and without their consent, animals literally are slaves, and thereby integral elements of the contemporary capitalist slave economy (which in its starkest form also includes human sweatshops and sex trades).

Abolitionists often view welfarism as a dangerous ruse and roadblock to moral progress, and often ground their position in the philosophy of rights. 19th century abolitionists were not addressing the slave master's "obligation" to be kind to the slaves, to feed and clothe them well, or to work them with adequate rest. Rather, they demanded the total and unqualified eradication of the master-slave relation, the freeing of the slave from all forms of bondage. Similarly, the new abolitionists reject reforms of the institutions and practices of animal slavery as grossly inadequate and they pursue the complete emancipation of animals from all forms of human exploitation, subjugation, and domination.

Animal Liberation and the Left

'Auschwitz begins whenever someone looks at a slaughterhouse and thinks: they're only animals." --Theodor Adorno

'In relation to [animals], all people are Nazis; for the animals it is an eternal Treblinka."-- Isaac Bashevis Singer

Animal liberation is the next necessary and logical development in moral evolution and political struggle. Animal liberation builds on the most progressive ethical and political advances human beings have made in the last 200 years and carries them to their logical conclusions. It takes the struggle for rights, equality, and nonviolence to the next level, beyond the artificial moral and legal boundaries of humanism, in order to challenge all prejudices and hierarchies including speciesism. Martin Luther King's paradigmatic humanist vision of a "worldhouse" devoid of violence and divisions, however laudable, remains a blood-soaked slaughterhouse until the values of peace and equality are extended to all animal species.

Animal liberation requires that the Left transcend the comfortable boundaries of humanism in order to make a qualitative leap in ethical consideration, thereby moving the moral bar from reason and language to sentience and subjectivity. Just as the Left once had to confront ecology, and emerged a far superior theory and politics, so it now has to engage animal rights. As the confrontation with ecology infinitely deepened and

Rethinking Revolution (continued)

enriched Leftist theory and politics, so should the encounter with animal rights and liberation.

Speciesism is the belief that nonhuman species exist to serve the needs of the human species, that animals are in various senses inferior to human beings, and therefore that one can favor human over nonhuman interests according to species status alone.7 Like racism or sexism, speciesism creates a false dualistic division between one group and another in order to arrange the differences hierarchically and justify the domination of the "superior" over the "inferior." Just as society has discerned that it is prejudiced, illogical, and unacceptable for whites to devalue people of color and for men to diminish women, so it is beginning to learn how utterly arbitrary and irrational it is for human animals to position themselves over nonhuman animals because of species differences. Among animals who are all sentient subjects of a life, these differences--humanity's false and arrogant claim to be the sole bearer of reason and language--are no more ethically relevant than differences of gender or skin color, yet in the unevolved psychology of the human primate they have decisive bearing. The theory--speciesism--informs the practice--unspeakably cruel forms of domination, violence, and killing.

The prejudice and discriminatory attitude of speciesism is as much a part of the Left as the general population and its most regressive elements, calling into question the "radical," "oppositional," or "progressive" nature of Left positions and politics. While condemning violence and professing rights for all, the Left fails to take into account the weighty needs and interests of billions of oppressed animals. Although priding themselves on holistic and systemic critiques of global capitalism, Leftists fail to grasp the profound interconnections among human, animal, and earth liberation struggles and the need to conceived and fight for all as one struggle against domination, exploitation, and hierarchy.

From the perspective of ecology and animal rights, Marxists and other social "radicals" have been extremely reactionary forces. In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels lumped animal welfarists into the same petite-bourgeoisie or reactionary category with charity organizers, temperance fanatics, and naïve reformists, failing to see that the animal welfare movement in the US, for instance, was a key politicizing cause for women whose struggle to reduce cruelty to animals was inseparable from their struggle against male violence and the exploitation of children.[10] In works such as his 1844 Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts, Karl Marx advanced a naturalistic theory of human life, but like the dominant Western tradition he posited a sharp dualism between human and nonhuman animals, arguing that only human beings have consciousness and a complex social world. Denying to animals the emotional, social, and psychological complexity of their actual lives, Marx argued that whereas animals have an immediate and merely instinctual relation to productive activity the earth, human labor is mediated by free will and intelligence. If Marxism and other Left traditions have proudly grounded their theories in science, social radicals need to realize that science - specifically, the discipline of "cognitive ethology" which studies the complexity of animal emotions, thought, and communications - has completely eclipsed their fallacious, regressive, speciesist concepts of nonhuman animals as devoid of complex forms of consciousness and social life.[11]

While there is lively debate over whether or not Marx had an environmental consciousness, there is no question he was a speciesist and the product of an obsolete anthropocentric/dominionist paradigm that continues to mar progressive social theory and politics. The spectacle of Left speciesism is evident in the lack of articles - often due to a blatant refusal to consider animal rights issues -- on animal exploitation in progressive journals, magazines, and online sites. In one case, for example, The Nation wrote a scathing essay that condemned the treatment of workers at a factory farm, but amazingly said nothing about the exploitation of thousands of chickens imprisoned in the hell of battery cages. In bold contrast, Gale Eisnitz's powerful work, Slaughterhouse, documents the exploitation of animals and humans alike on the killing floors of slaughterhouses, as she shows the dehumanization of humans in and through routinized violence to animals.[12]

As symptomatic of the prejudice, ignorance, provincialism, and non-holistic theorizing that is rife through the Left, consider the case of Michael Albert, a noted Marxist theorist and co-founder of Z Magazine and Z Net. In a recent interview with the animal rights and environmental magazine Satya, Albert confessed: "When I talk about social movements to make the world better, animal rights does not come into my mind. I honestly don't see animal rights in anything like the way I see women's movements, Latino movements, youth movements, and so on ... a large-scale discussion of animal rights and ensuing action is probably more than needed ... but it just honestly doesn't strike me as being remotely as urgent as preventing war in Iraq or winning a 30-hour work week."

While I do not expect a human supremacist like Albert to see animal and human suffering as even roughly comparable, I cannot fathom privileging a work reduction for humans who live relatively comfortable lives to ameliorating the obscene suffering of tens of billion of animals who are confined, tortured, and killed each year in the most unspeakable ways. But human and animal rights and liberation causes are not a zero-sum game, such that gains for animals require losses for humans. Like most within the Left, Albert lacks the holistic vision to grasp the profound connections between animal abuse and human suffering.

The problem with such myopic Leftism stems not only from Karl Marx himself, but the traditions that spawned him - modern humanism, mechanistic science, industrialism, and the Enlightenment. To be sure, the move from a God-centered to a human-centered world, from the crusades of a bloodthirsty Christianity to the critical thinking and autonomy ethos of the Enlightenment, were massive historical gains, and animal rights builds on them. But modern social theory and science perpetuated one of worst aspects of Christianity (in the standard interpretation that understands dominion as domination), namely the view that animals are mere resources for human use. Indeed, the situation for animals worsened considerably under the impact of modern sciences and technologies that spawned vivisection, genetic engineering, cloning, factory farms, and slaughterhouses. Darwinism was an important influence on Marx and subsequent radical thought, but no one retained Darwin's emphasis on the intelligence of animal life, the evolutionary continuity from nonhuman to human life, and the basic equality among all species.

Social ecologists and "eco-humanists" such as Murray Bookchin condemn the industrialization of animal abuse and killing but never challenge the alleged right to use animals for human purposes. Oblivious to scientific studies that document reason, language, culture, and technology among various animal species, Bookchin rehearses the Cartesian-Marxist mechanistic view of animals as dumb creatures devoid of reason and language. Animals therefore belong to "first nature," rather than the effervescently creative "second nature" world of human culture. Like the Left in general, social ecologists fail to theorize the impact of animal exploitation on the environment and human society and psychology. They ultimately espouse the same welfarist views that permit and sanctify some of the most unspeakable forms of violence against animals within current capitalist social relations, speaking in the same language of "humane treatment" of animal slaves used by vivisectors, managers of factory farms and slaughterhouses operators, fur farmers, and bosses of rodeos and circuses.

The Left traditionally has been behind the curve in its ability to understand and address forms of oppression not directly related to economics. It took decades for the Left to recognize racism, sexism, nationalism, religion, culture and everyday life, ideology and media, ecology, and other issues into its anti-capitalist framework, and did so only under the pressure of various liberation movements. The tendency of the Marxist Left, in particular, has been to relegate issues such as gender, race, and culture to "questions" to be addressed, if at all, only after the goals of the class struggle are achieved. Such exclusionist and reductionist politics prompted Rosa Luxemburg, for one, to defend the importance of culture and

Rethinking Revolution (continued)

everyday life by exclaiming, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be a part of your revolution!"

Neo-Marxists, such as Frankfurt School theorists, grasped the importance of politics, culture, and ideology as important issues related but not reducible to economics and class, and after the 1960s Leftists finally understood ecology as more than a "bourgeois issue" or "diversion" from social struggles. In The Dialectic of Enlightenment, Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno developed important insights into the relationship between the domination of humans over nature and over one another, and sometimes sympathetically evoked images of animals in captivity as important symbols of human arrogance and alienation from nature. Most notably, Herbert Marcuse emphasized the importance of a "new sensibility" grounded in non-exploitative attitudes and relations toward the natural world.

Although since the 1970s the Left has begun to seriously address the "nature question," they have universally failed to grasp that the "animal question" that lies at the core of social and ecological issues.[13] To make the point about the interrelationships here in a simple but crucial way, consider that no society can achieve ecological sustainability if its dominant mode of food production is factory farming. The industrialized system of confining and fattening animals for human food consumption, pioneered in the US after World War II and exported globally, is a main cause of water pollution (due to fertilizers, chemicals, and massive amounts of animal waste) and a key contributor to rainforest destruction, desertification, global warming, in addition to being a highly inefficient use of water, land, and crops.[14]

Critiques of human arrogance over and alienation from nature, calls for a "re-harmonization" of society with ecology, and emphases on a "new ethics" that focus solely on the physical world apart from the millions of animal species it contains are speciesist, myopic, and inadequate. It's as if everyone can get on board with respecting rivers and mountains but still want to eat, experiment on, wear, and be entertained by animals. Left ecological concerns stem not from any kind of deep respect for the natural world, but rather from a position of "enlightened anthropocentrism" (a clear oxymoron) that understands how important a sustainable environment is for human existence. It is a more difficult matter to understand the crucial role animals play in sustaining ecosystems and how animal exploitation often has dramatic environmental consequences, let alone more complex issues such as relationships between violence toward animals and violence to other human beings. Moreover, it is far easier to "respect nature" through recycling, planting trees, or driving hybrid cars than it is to respect animals by becoming a vegan who stops eating and wearing animal bodies and products. Much more so than a shift in how one views the inorganic world, it is far more difficult, complex, and profound -- for both philosophical and practical reasons -- to revolutionize one's views toward animals and adopt ethical veganism.

In short, the modern "radical" tradition - whether, Marxist, socialist, anarchist, or other "Left" positions that include anti-racism and feminism -- stands in continuity with the entire Western heritage of anthropocentrism, and in no way can be seen as a liberating philosophy from the standpoint of the environment and other species on this planet. Current Left thought is merely Stalinism toward animals.

A truly revolutionary social theory and movement will not just emancipate members of one species, but rather all species and the earth itself. A future revolutionary movement worthy of its name will grasp the ancient conceptual roots of hierarchy and domination, such as emerge in the animal husbandry practices of the first agricultural societies, and incorporate a new ethics of nature - environmental ethics and animal rights - that overcomes instrumentalism and hierarchical thinking in every pernicious form.[15]

[1] For a trenchant analysis of how the exploitation of animals rebounds to trouble the human world in innumerable ways, see Jeremy Rifkin, Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture (New York: Dutton, 1993); John Robbins, The Food Revolution: How Your Diet Can Help Save Your Life and Our World (Newburyport MA: Conari Press, 2001); Charles Patterson, Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust (New York: Lantern Books 2003); and Jim Mason, An Unnatural Order: Uncovering the Roots of Our Domination of Nature and Each Other (New York: Lantern Books, 2005).+

[2] For histories of the origins and development of the AAM in the UK and US, see James M. Jasper and Dorothy Nelkin, The Animal Rights Crusade: The Growth of a Moral Protest (New York: The Free Press, 1992), and Kelly Wand (ed.), The Animal Rights Movement (San Diego: Thomson-Gale, 2003).

[3] Peter Singer's groundbreaking 1975 book, Animal Liberation, actually is titled deceptively as it espouses utilitarian-informed welfarist not abolitionist positions.

[4] Not all self-professed "animal liberationists" reject capitalist structures and political ideologies, however, as is evident in the case of Joan Dunayer's book, Speciesism (Derwood: Maryland: Ryce Publishing, 2004). For my critique of the naïve and bourgeois dimensions of this form of "abolitionism," see "Beyond Welfarism, Speciesism, and Legalism: Review essay of Joan Dunyaer's Speciesism, " in Organization and Environment, 19:2, June 2006.

[5] For the ALF credo, see http://www.animalliberationfront.com/ALFront/alf_credo.htm.

[6] See Matthew Scully, Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002). Note also the difference between an ethics of justice and liberation, and an ethic of "mercy."

[7] The most important exception to this rule has been efforts by numerous feminists to engage the relationship between speciesism and patriarchy. See, for instance, Carol Adams, The Sexual Politics of Meat (New York: Continuum, 1990), Carol Adams and Josephine Donovan (eds.), Beyond Animal Rights: A Feminist Caring Ethic for the Treatment of Animals (New York: Continuum, 1996); and pattrice jones, "Mothers with Monkeywrenches: Feminist Imperatives and the ALF" in Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella II (eds.), Terrorists or Freedom Fighters? Reflections on the Liberation of Animals (New York: Lantern Books, 2004), pp. 137-156

[8] On the theme of the direct action anti-vivisection movement as an anti-capitalist movement, see Steven Best and Richard Kahn, "Trial By Fire: The SHAC7 and the Future of Democracy," at http://www.drstevebest.org/papers/vegenvani/shac7.php.

[9] For more details of my analysis of the ALM as an abolitionist movement, see "The New Abolitionism: Capitalism, Slavery, and Animal Liberation," at http://www.drstevebest.org/papers/vegenvani/new_abolitionism.php

[10] See Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," in Robert C. Tucker (ed.), The Marx-Engels Reader (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1978), p. 496.

[11] The body of literature comprising the field of cognitive ethology is incredibly rich and vast. Donald R. Griffin was a pioneer of the scientific study of animal life and intelligence, and wrote important works such as Animal Minds (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1992). For more contemporary approaches, see the excellent work of Marc Bekoff, including Minding Animals: Awareness, Emotions, and Heart (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

[12] Gail Eiznitz, Slaughterhouse: The Shocking Story of Greed, Neglect, and Inhumane Treatment Inside the U.S. Meat Industry (New York: Prometheus Books, 1997).

[13] On the "animal question" as central to the "nature question" and social change in general, see Mason, An Unnatural Order.

[14] On the environmental impact of factory farming, see Rifkin, Beyond Beef, and Robbins, The Food Revolution.

[15] For an analysis of the affinities between animal and human liberation, see Ted Benton, Natural Relations: Ecology, Animal Rights, and Social Justice (London: Verso, 1993).

[Additional text in this article can be found at http://www.bestcyrano.org/sBestAR-Manifesto.htm]

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Many more anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last few weeks, including those signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

April 17, 2007
The Animal Liberation Front has kept it's promise by continuing it's campaign against Wachovia Securities for that company's continued financial relationship with HLS customer GlaxcoSmithKline. On the night of April 10th the ALF visited 3425 North East 19th Ave., Portland, Oregon, the home of Kevin Singer, vice president of Wealth Management of Wachovia Securities. Your shiny new SUV isn't too shiny any more after we left it spray-painted with slogans and paint-stripped.

The masked night watchers would like him and everyone esle responsible for the atrocities, whether it's vivisection, clearcutting or keeping the capitalist afloat to know you will be targeted and we always win. As for you, Wachovia, all bets are off . Sell your shares in GSK because things are going to get much worse. We have the names and addresses of the top executives, and believe us our actions are like childs play compared to what we have in store. We will not stand by as beagles are punched in the face and primates are torn to pieces for fraudulent science You have nothing to gain by investing in this deplorabe industry; divest now or else. - Viva ALF

April 26, 2007
Again, a vacant home owned by vivisector Audie Leventhal, located at 2088 W. 14200 South, Riverton, UT, was simply a recipe for easy direct action. Here are the highlights:
- Every single lock on the house glued
- Front window smashed out
- Slogans spray painted all over his deluxe jacuzzi
- A salt-saturated solution was poured all over his front lawn. This will kill the lawn and force Audie to lay down fresh soil. Not cheap.

Total damages are estimated to be in the thousands of dollars. Audie is a ruthlessly violent alcoholic. This is a man who has sewn kittens' eyelids shut. This is a man who has experimented on conscious primates. This is a man who has beaten his wife within inches of her life. Only a society so corrupted by money and so unbelievably tolerant to the suffering of others would allow a man like this to still be free on the streets. The ALF does not share this corruption or tolerance. Audie can rest assured that we will be back. Happy world week.

May 8, 2007
On the night of May the 8th in Hamilton. A UPS copy centre had its windows smashed by the ALF in support of the SHAC 7 and the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign.

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) is one of the world's largest animal-testing labs. It has three facilities, one in New Jersey USA and two in England, where animals are forced to inhale and ingest excessive amounts of chemicals (pesticides, coffee sweeteners, GMO's, diet pills, etc) then they are killed and dissected. Every day 500 animals (including dogs, cats, mice, primates and rabbits) die at the hands of perverse "scientists."

Companies like UPS, DHL, York Refrigeration, Thermo Fisher Scientific, etc are all key suppliers to HLS. Without their support, HLS and its cruelty STOPS. UPS has a monopoly on the surface traffic of animals shipped to the slaughter. Day in and day out UPS trucks ship wild and domesticated animals into a laboratory where they never see the light of day again. The abuse stops when the trucks stop! UPS, this is not a business investment, this is fucking abuse! Stop the traffic, stop the slaughter! ALF Hamilton.

June 14, 2007
On 6/14/2007 at approximately 4:30am, Linda's Fashions and Fur Salons, at 903 Old Scalp Avenue, Johnstown, PA, was visited under cover of night by masked activists. The letters ALF were spraypainted on the building, and a cinderblock was thrown through the front door. This action was carried out in solidarity with Earth Liberation Prisoner Jeffrey Luers, who recently began Year seven of his almost 23 year sentence, and all others who refuse to compromise in defense of our earth. We refuse to be intimidated by the forces of government repression, and we refuse to forget our comrades. Until all the cages are empty and all are free, our struggle continues. This is not the last you'll see of us Linda.

June 27, 2007
130am on the twenty forth of june: 1 gallon of fuel was placed and set a light under the right front corner of Arthur Rosenbaums large white shiney BMW.

He and his wife Sandy, living at 465 Loring avenue in la, are the target of rebellion for the vile and evil things he does to primates at UCLA. We have seen by our own eyes the torture on fully concious primates in his lab. We have heard their whimpers and screeches of pain. Seeing this drove one of us to rush out and vomit. We have seen hell and its in Rosenbaums lab.

Rosenbaum, you need to watch your back because next time you are in the operating room or walking to your office you just might be facing injections into your eyes like the primates, you sick twisted fuck.

Demonstrators need to realize that just demonstrating won't stop this kind of evil. Look up Arthur Rosenbaum to find out about his experiment from two thousand four threw two thousand seven. - animal liberation brigade

June 29, 2007
John Frederick Richardson, the director for Abbot Labs, a customer of Huntingdon Life Sciences received a new paint job on his door and stoop at his 2732 P street NE, washington DC house.

Red is really your color John! It totally compliments the broken window! Like broken glass and read paint? Keep doing business with HLS!"

"Many activists do not understand the revolutionary nature of this movement. We are fighting a major war, defending animals and our very planet from human greed and destruction."-- David Barbarash, former ALF Press Officer

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers #13797671
Oregon State Prison
2605 State Street Salem
Oregon 97310

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Pending resentencing!

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

Joyanna Zacher #703794
Multnomah County Iverness Jail
11540 NE Iverness Drive
Portland, OR 97220

NATHAN BLOCK #36359-086
Sheridan Federal Detention Center
P.O. BOX 6000
Sheridan, OR 97378-6000

Connection to the Jefferson Poplar Farm fire which occurred in 2001 in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- 1 year, 1 day
26397-050
FCI FORT DIX
P.O. BOX 2000
FORT DIX, NJ 08640

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Volume 3, Number 4: October 2007

InThis Issue:

- **The Limits of Tyrants** by Andrew L. Roth
- **Book Review: Norm Phelps' The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA** by Steven Best, Ph.D.
- **Press Officer Lindy Greene: Speech to DIY Conference January 2007**
- **The Trouble with Animal Models** By Andrea Gawrylewski
- **Better Lab Testing May End Use of Animals** Associated Press
- **When can we reasonably expect abolition? Months not decades** Arkangel Magazine
- **UC Davis Clears Staff in Deaths of Monkeys**
- **Animal Experiments Continue to Rise in UK**
- **On Informants** By Zig-Zag

This late(st) issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter is again filled with informative and educational articles from both the streets and academia. The underground arm of the animal liberation movement continues to be more active than ever, and the Press Office is here to report on and explain actions taken on behalf of exploited, oppressed, tortured and murdered non-human animals.

As an increasingly fascist state makes life difficult on those willing to show their faces, others will capitalize on the security and effectiveness of direct action. No state, no corporation, no one is going to stop the animal liberation movement, which grows stronger in its knowledge of truly effective tactics that do not depend on asking the master for crumbs as non-human animals are slaughtered around us for profit.

All successsful liberation struggles have required sacrifice, just as they all embraced a wide array of tactics aimed at overpowering a powerful oppressor that thrived on exploitation. Animal Liberation is no different!

This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge.

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Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

The Limits of Tyrants

by Andrew L. Roth
http://www.projectcensored.org/newsflash/tyrants.htm

"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." --Frederick Douglass

On the historic day in October 2006 when President Bush signed the Military Commissions Act he effectively suspended the principle of habeas corpus. Habeas corpus has been a cornerstone of Western justice since the Magna Carta of 1215. It epitomizes the value that laws, not individuals -- whether they are kings or Presidents govern a land.

The Act strips the right of habeas corpus from non-citizens that is bad enough -- but its impact goes further. It has profound consequences for legal permanent residents those who hold greencards and for citizens, too. President Bush can now detain anyone, citizen or non-citizen, whom he deems to be an "unlawful enemy combatant." Who is an "unlawful enemy combatant"? The definition is broadly worded and affords Bush power to imprison almost anyone.

Have we reached the limits of our endurance?

I want to touch on one further, related theme this afternoon. From the start, the weeklong sit-in and today's strike have been signaled as "non-violent," emphasizing the goal of peaceful protest. As Martin Luther King, Jr. taught: Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. I admire and support this. Which raises for me the issue of non-violence.

For several years I have been haunted by the typewritten letter that Gandhi sent Hitler in July 1939 -- just months before Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. At the urging of friends and "for the sake of humanity," Gandhi wrote Hitler:

"It is quite clear that you are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to a state of savagery. Must you pay that price for an object however worthy it may appear to you to be? Will you listen to the appeal of one who has deliberately shunned the method of war not without considerable success?"

Modest to a fault, Gandhi concludes by asking Hitler's forgiveness, if he has "erred in writing." Of course, numerous critics (perhaps most notably George Orwell) have questioned the sense of Gandhi's conviction to non-violence in the face of fascism. What to make of Gandhi's appeal? Was he naive? Foolish? Did the limits of his endurance stretch beyond our capacity? Confronted with a President and Vice President who flagrantly ignore the will of the American people not to mention the world's population can we continue to gather, to march, to petition?

Non-violent protest stands as one of the great forces of the 20th and, perhaps, the 21st centuries. But what do we do when it falls short? The Military Commissions Act and its broadly threatening definition of "unlawful enemy combatants" force us to address this question with urgency. Laws that potentially transform non-violent protesters into unlawful enemy combatants heighten the stakes. What do we do when the government our government attempts to de-legitimate non-violent resistance?

Here are some of author and activist Arundhati Roy's reflections on the failure of a grassroots campaign by indigenous Adivasi and Dalit people in India, who for 15-years non-violently opposed the Indian government's plan to dam the sacred Narmada River:

If we don't respect non-violence, then violence becomes the only option for people. If governments do not show themselves to respect reasoned, non-violent resistance then by default they respect violence.

We have not yet exhausted all the options of non-violent resistance attempted by the Adivasi and Dalit along India's Narmada River? The

Limits of Tyrants (continued)

toolkit of non-violent resistance contains many tools that we have yet to grasp and use including escalated forms of civil disobedience and direct action. Our work today should be to consider those tactics, and how to escalate them, gradually but effectively.

We need to be disruptive. Otherwise we legitimate a government that we reject, and we participate in the reproduction of a social order that we find immoral. As we approach the limits of our endurance for oppression, we must remember Frederick Douglass's insights. We act today to indicate to our political leaders that we, as citizens, have reached our limits.We will not accept any more oppression: neither our own, through the steady erosion of civil liberties; nor others', around the globe, through the escalation of immoral militarism conducted in our name.

We have reached the limits of our endurance for these oppressions -- which means that our political leaders must soon reach the limits of their tyranny, at home and abroad.

Douglass tells us: If there is no struggle, there is no progress. The question for us now is, How best to continue this struggle?

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http://www.projectcensored.org/newsflash/tyrants.htm

Norm Phelps' The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA

Lantern Books, 2007, 367 pp.
by Steven Best, Ph.D.

"All of human history is one long horror story of the imprisonment, enslavement, torture, and murder of animals. Even countries whose culture has been shaped by religions that are more animal friendly than Christianity, like Hinduism and Buddhism, have a terrible record where animals are concerned." -Norm Phelps[1]

Recently, there have been a number of excellent histories of the animal advocacy and/or vegetarianism movement that have filled significant gaps in knowledge, provided critical narratives to the stories told by those less-than-sympathetic or even hostile to these movements, and in cases such as Tristram Stuart's epic, *The Bloodless Revolution: A Cultural History of Vegetarianism from 1600 to Modern Times* (2007), have provided new perspectives from the animal and vegetarian standpoints that represent an important rethinking and revision of standard humanist histories – as Stuart, for example, shows how key figures of the French Revolution had linked egalitarianism and vegetarianism in a radical holistic politics.[2]

Along with Diane Beers' recent work, *The Prevention of Cruelty* (2006), Norm Phelps' new book, *The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA*, is an important history of the modern animal advocacy movement. Whereas Beers' book is largely a descriptive history, Phelps takes off the objectivist gloves to write a narrative that advocates the animal rights agenda. This is certainly a valid move, but -- like Lee Hall's execrable Stockholm-Syndrome-suffering attack on militant animal liberation in her self-published screed, *Capers in the Courtyard* (2007) -- Phelps advances an arbitrary and circumscribed notion of animal rights that quintessentially embodies the bourgeois, liberal, reformist, single-issue, state-based, legalist politics that *dominate* the thinking and tactics of the contemporary animal advocacy movement, whether welfarist, "new welfarist," or rights/abolitionist in theory and tactics.

Obediently, this approach eschews actions not pre-approved by the corporate-state complex and appropriates their hegemonic language to demonize those in the movement who chose tough direct action tactics and frequently stop animal exploiters where other more "civil" approaches necessarily fail. Despite the fanfare of Gary Francione and followers who tout their abolitionist approach as radically different from welfarism, whether "old" or "new," the kissing-cousins welfare/rights/abolitions orientations are more similar to than different from one another. One sees this in the shared vilification of militant direct action (e. g., Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty [SHAC] and the Animal Liberation Front [ALF]) and the uncritical belief that justice for animals can come from corporate-controlled capitalism, which begs the question whether the abolition of animal exploitation is possible without abolishing the omnicidal capitalist system itself.

Phelps's fixation on reformist and legal strategies as the best or only path to animal liberation mires him in blatant inconsistencies and contradictions that betray conceptual foundations rooted in capitalist ideology and the psychological need structure of Christian/Gandhian dogma. Although these flaws seriously detract from the philosophical and political merit of the book, there is nonetheless much to gain from reading Phelps's comprehensive historical account of Western views toward animals.

A Tale of Two Traditions

Phelps constructs a broad historical narrative that makes new and important sense of Western history from the perspective of animal advocacy and vegetarianism. By working from the animal and vegetarian standpoints, Phelps uncovers aspects of Western history that are as crucial to understand as they are systematically ignored. These standpoints shed invaluable light on the social and ecological crises of Western societies, the moral character of societies and individuals, and the deeply flawed attempts to a progressivist narrative of history from humanist principles that discount the effects of social development on animals and the earth as a whole. As typically conceived in its patently racist and Eurocentric form, this metanarrative charts the evolutionary movement from an early "savage" or "primitive" stage of culture to an advanced level of "civilization," such as culminates in the economic, scientific, and technological development of Western modernity.

Although Christianity abolished the pagan rituals of animal sacrifice and the atrocities of the Roman Coliseum, it helped legitimate and spread countless other forms of animal exploitation. While crucial in dismantling Christian rule, secular modernity, as developed through the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and modern science, seemed to bear promise for a rational ethic of animal protection shorn of superstition and theology. Yet, aside from the progressive views of Leonardo da Vinci and occasional sympathetic remarks from figures such as Montaigne and Voltaire, Phelps maintains that modern cultures sought progress for humans only while ignoring the plight of animals. Indeed, beginning especially in the seventeenth century with the emergence of modern vivisection, this allegedly "enlightened" world proved itself more barbarous than any past culture as it reduced animals to nonsentient machines and tortured them mercilessly without anesthetic. The steady growth in vivisection meant a hellish suffering and death for millions of animals. Further scientific and technological advances in the twentieth century led to the industrialization of animal farming through factory farms and slaughterhouses, as well as to genetic engineering and cloning which even more invasive manipulation of animals' bodies.

A Critical Accounting

In The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA, Phelps provides a lucid account of a complex history that leaves the reader with a clear sense of competing tendencies, such as between hierarchical and egalitarian traditions, as well as among welfare, rights, and direct action/liberation approaches. Adroitly, Phelps avoids the dangers of constructing a linear narrative, such as would result from a stage-theory of history that traced an alleged movement of increasing radicalism that unfolds in the transition from welfare to rights and liberation. He shows, for instance, how ancient Eastern cultures and early (pre-Socratic) Western cultures had more progressive views toward animals than subsequent Western societies, and he reveals how the much

The Longest Struggle (continued)

vaunted modern sciences and technologies, compared to the "Dark Ages" of medievalism, were utterly regressive from the standpoint of animals. Phelps separates what constitutes progress for humans and for animals, and "progress" typically involves a zero-sum game in which humans advance at the expense of the animals they enslave. Indeed, throughout Phelps's book, there is a stirring emphasis on "human tyranny" rooted in the enslavement of animals. The book is a strong – and much deserved – indictment of the pretentiousness and hypocrisy of Western "civilization."

Phelps and the Political Vacuum of Animal Rights

The social, political, and economic lacunae of Phelps's analysis are no doubt related to his overall political views, which are reformist, pro-capitalist, and single-issue oriented. Phelps's politics are muted in The Longest Struggle, but emerge more substantively in his 2007 interview Abolitionist Online. Here he muses on the proper relation between animal rights and human rights, between tactics appropriate to liberating animals and more radical strategies necessary for a larger social transformation that can dismantle forms of human oppression as well:

I think it would be a grave strategic error to tie animal liberation to the abolition of capitalism or any other more general restructuring of society. First, there are real and important gains for animals that can be made within the current social and economic structure, however unsatisfactory that structure may be on other grounds. To forego those gains by focusing on patriarchy and capitalism as opposed to focusing directly on animal oppression would, in effect, be condemning countless generations of animals to lifelong suffering and early death, at least some of which could have been alleviated.

Secondly, tying animal rights to a radical political agenda dealing with human issues, like socialism or anarchism, would convince the general public that animal advocates are a bunch of dangerous loony tunes, and set the animals' cause back to where it was before Peter Singer wrote Animal Liberation. Animal rights is a hard enough sell without linking it to another cause that the overwhelming majority of the public is adamantly opposed to. The task of the animal rights movement is to persuade Middle America that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use in entertainment, and that animals are entitled to live their lives according to the dictates of their natures with as little interference from human beings as possible. We need to stay focused on that agenda.

Third, whenever animal issues are tied to human issues, the animals always come out losers because when the crunch comes, the human issues are given priority. When the human issue appears to come into conflict with the animals' issue, the animals are abandoned. Something similar happened in the nineteenth century when abolitionists abandoned women's suffrage. Up to and through the Civil War, the abolition and women's movements had proceeded together. They had overlapping leadership, and advocates of one were typically advocates of the other. But during reconstruction, when a Constitutional Amendment was being drafted that would give former slaves the vote, feminists wanted female former slaves to be given the vote along with males. Afraid that this might endanger the amendment, abolitionists deserted women and opted for male-only suffrage. It was more than a half century before women of any color got the vote nationwide.[3]

Bourgeois Pride and Prejudice

As every history and narrative is partial and motivated, Phelps's biases are clear. The book is heavily skewed toward a dogmatic embrace of peaceful, legal, "non-violent" forms of advocacy that have severe limitations. If such tactics were employed exclusively throughout the political battles for human rights during the last three centuries, this approach would have left many people still in chains and prisons. Without argument or cause, and sounding more like the reactionary corporate front group, the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) than a champion of animal rights, Phelps smears the ALF and SHAC as "reprehensible" (274) groups engaged in nothing but "mischief-making" (276). Not content with this grotesque simplification of their theory and politics and distortion of their significance and accomplishments – the thousands of animals their militant tactics have freed, the scores of exploiters they have put out of business, and the countless more potential future speciesists they forced to rethink their career choice -- Phelps can only hurl the clichéd hysterical charge that direct action militants are "giving the animals' enemies a weapon with which to destroy the entire animal rights movement" (276). It is precisely this line of thinking that motivates the top brass of HSUS to assail and demonize militant direct action. In one grotesque, McCarthyesque incident, HSUS executive Mike Markarian stated in the media that HSUS "applauds" the FBI witchhunt against "eco-terrorists" and hopes that they "go after" the radicals.[4] In 2007, the FBI followed HSUS' suggestion and arrested seven SHAC activists -- 6 of whom sit in jail as I write – for the crime of running a website and an effective campaign against an unconscionable corporation that tortures and kills 500 animals a day.

Phelps constantly criticizes the "species cant" that advanced thinkers like Bentham evinced in their inconsistent views on animals, such as defending their interests as sentient beings while also denigrating them in commonplace fashion for their alleged lack of reason or cognitive complexity. Yet, in the same way, Phelps advances strong insights and yet swallows the official party line against direct action peddled by corporate exploiters, state bureaucrats, the FBI, the CCF, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the HSUS Gestapo. Phelps carps against militant direction today in the same way that in the 1960s the NAACP chastised Martin Luther King Jr. as an "extremist" and urged he abandon his civil disobedience tactics and patiently "wait" for change.[5]

Like HSUS and much of the mainstream animal movement, Phelps uncritically accepts FBI, state, and corporate definitions of violence and terrorism which are then replicated in the critique of direct action, thereby condemning some of the most effective actions taken in the movement as "criminal" and "counter-productive." Compounding the schizophrenic effect, Phelps attacks SHAC and the ALF but is entirely uncritical of Paul Watson's own sabotage tactics, whether these involve sinking fishing vessels in a harbor, ramming pirate whalers to thwart their intent to murder whales, or ripping open a hole in the side of a whaler's ship to disable it from its despicable task. I am certainly not criticizing Watson's work, which I greatly admire, but rather pointing to another inconsistency whereby Phelps praises one form of property destruction but condemns another. Seemingly, Phelps is oscillating between two identities: a Dr. Jekyll who places trust in a death-dealing machinations of the corporate-state complex and the loving power of satyagraha (Gandhi's "soul force"), and a Mr. Hyde who champions lawbreaking and sabotage if they advance the cause of animal liberation.

In another curious move, Phelps treats PETA with kid gloves despite their endless follies and demented policy of "euthanizing" thousands of cats and dogs, many perfectly adoptable. Needless to say, HSUS and other mainstream groups that have become part of the Beltway machinery are extolled effusively. Their path is portrayed as the one and only road forward, through the labyrinthine system of money and favors where citizen voices are drowned out by the cacophony of armies of lobbyists wielding bags of cash and exotic travel bookings. In corporate capitalism we trust.

Phelps blames militant direct action groups for driving a wedge within the movement, while ignoring the far more sectarian and divisive actions of groups such as the HSUS that leveled public critiques against the ALF and SHAC, that encourage the FBI to violate First Amendment rights to free speech, that cut and run from national conferences that allow a small handful of militants to speak, and that create their own conference settings that pander to the welfare crown and invite leaders of the meat industry to present their contemptible rationalizations of the mass murder of innocents.

So who really is driving a wedge into the animal protection movement? It is ironic that as Phelps levels misinformed accusations against direct action

The Longest Struggle (continued)

groups, he himself emerges as a factionist and divisive force. The truth is that the real wedge drivers are the mainstream welfare movements like HSUS and their supporters such as Phelps.[4] I have never known anyone in the militant direct action camp to dogmatically insist that their approach is the one and only true one, and to not acknowledge the importance of many mainstream programs and actions. I also have never seen humility or understanding coming from mainstream figures in their view of direct action, as they and their organizations are fearful of serious struggle, of stepping outside their corporate-state imposed box, and of admitting that there are many effective ways of bringing about animal liberation. Phelps is flat wrong in his straw-man critique of the direct action advocates thinking that "violence" is the solution, as typically the radicals of the ALF, SHAC, and other groups advocate – and in their daily lives enact -- a wide range of tactics that are necessary and helpful, including animal rescue and sanctuaries, public education, and vegan outreach.

Phelps represents yet another example of the inability of the mainstream movement to seriously engage direct action in its philosophical complexity and political efficacy. Instead, the pacifists of the mainstream rely on tired slogans and dogmas, dog-eared books of Gandhi and King, utopian concepts of human nature, and naïve views of the Machiavellian and nihilistic nature of the corporate-state complex and an ecocidal juggernaut of global capitalism that might just take us all down before we can bring about anything resembling animal rights. They typically see history only in pacifist terms, and thus uphold Gandhi and King as examples of the efficacy of non-violence, never mentioning the more militant and sometimes violent opposition forces also contributing factors to social change in India, the US, and elsewhere. Moreover, they tend to be ignorant of the history of social movements and the crucial role violence, force, and intimidation have played in brining about progressive social and moral change. The corrective to wholesale consumption of Gandhi and King can be found in books such as Howard Zinn's, A Peoples History of the United States (which throughout emphasizes the crucial role sabotage and violence play in struggles for democracy); Ward Churchill's, Pacifism as Pathology; and Peter Gelderloos's How Nonviolence Protects the State.

If Phelps had not intruded simplistically and inconsistently into complex political debates, in order to score some rhetorical points and win favors from the mainstream potentates and disciples, his book would have been stronger and more satisfying. With the reader advised alone these lines, The Longest Struggle nonetheless is valuable for uncovering the long, jagged, and varied history of animal advocacy and how egalitarian and vegetarian viewpoints thrived side-by-side with the dominant speciesist and carnivorist ideologies of Western societies. For a fuller social, political, and economic contextualization and interpretation of the history, nature, and significance of animal liberation, one must turn to other works, including those important volumes yet to be written.

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[1] "The Dominion of Love: Animal Rights According to the Bible," Norm Phelps interviewed by Claudette Vaughan, *Abolitionist Online*, Issue 6, May 2007 (http://www.abolitionist-online.com/_06phelps.html).
[2] On standpoint theory, see my review of Charles Patterson's book, *Eternal Treblinka*, in this issue, and also my forthcoming book, *Animal Liberation and Moral Progress: The Struggle for Future Evolution* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008).
[3] "The Dominion of Love: Animal Rights According to the Bible," Norm Phelps interviewed by Claudette Vaughan, *Abolitionist Online*, Issue 6, May 2007.
[4] See Steven Best, "HSUS Crosses the Line," *North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter*, Volume 1 Number 3, September 2005 (http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/Newsletter/archives/sep2005/hsus.htm).
[5] See King's rebuttal to their self-serving conservativism in his classic 1963 essay in defense of direct action, "Letter from Birmingham Jail," widely anthologized or available online at sites such as: http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/popular_requests/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf.

Press Officer Lindy Greene: Speech to DIY Conference January 2007

My name is Lindy Greene, and I'm one of the North American Animal Liberation Press Officers. I'm also an animal rights and anti-war activist. I will be 60 on my next birthday, so I guess I qualify as what the British refer to as a "granactivist." I thank you for the privilege of allowing me to speak before you today about the Press Office and what we do.

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO for short) is a legal, above-ground organization that receives, clarifies, and releases to the media the anonymous communiques sent by underground animal liberation activists who carry out illegal direct actions in defense of animals tortured and murdered by individual and corporate profiteers. The Press Officers do not, themselves, engage in illegal activities and do not know the identities of those who do. We rather serve as a voice for exploited animals and the activists who go to battle for them. I like to put it that we speak for those who can not - and for those who dare not.

You may be familiar with the name "Animal Liberation Front," or ALF. Its actions typically involve liberations - like freeing mink from fur farms - or economic sabotage of personal and industry property. What motivates liberations is the desire to immediately remove animals from the clutches of those who brutalize them - while the purpose of economic sabotage is to reduce or prohibit monetary gain from the abuse of nonhumans. Underground direct actions often involve both, as when liberationists spring animals from a laboratory and - in order to delay or prevent its continued operation - simultaneously destroy records and equipment.

The Animal Liberation Front adheres to a strict guideline that no life, animal or human, be harmed during an action. Other groups - such as the Animal Rights Militia, the Justice Department, and the Revolutionary Cells - do not rule out violence as a legitimate and justified tactic in the conviction that species membership is not a valid criterion to place someone outside the circle of moral compassion and beyond the reach of effective defense. The Press Office does not pass judgment on the nature of the underground actions reported in the communiques it receives. Rather, we reserve our outrage for those who gain financially from the torment of other sentient beings.

The animal rights movement focuses on several issues. Some common ones are fur; vivisection (animal research); factory farming; circuses, rodeos, and hunting; the annual massacre of 350,000 newborn harp seals off Newfoundland; and the slaughter of tens of thousands of companion animals in the municipal shelters. Activism occurs basically at three levels: rescue/welfare, legal/above-ground, and illegal/underground. Let's look at how laboratory animal experimentation might be fought from the three different perspectives. A welfarist would petition for increased cage space. An animal rights activist would participate in public pickets to raise social awareness. An animal liberationist would break into the lab, re-home the animals, and smash the computers. Tactics or strategies can be passive (such as tabling or leafleting), militant (such as home demonstrations), or illegal (such as raids and property destruction). The Press Office believes that all styles working in concert represents the most effective approach.

Animal rights activists in Los Angeles are currently working on four campaigns. These are UCLA, POM, HLS, and the six City pounds (or, as we refer to them, "Death Camps"). UCLA addicts monkeys to crystal meth. POM severs the penile arteries of rabbits in order to make bogus claims that its pomegranate juice helps erectile dysfunction. HLS - or Huntingdon Life Sciences - is a product-testing lab that poisons to death 500 animals a day. And Los Angeles Animal Services slaughters 40,000 lost and homeless companion animals and wildlife every year.

Underground actions will often occur in tandem with above-ground campaigns - but the latter has no ability to predict or control such activity. It seems like the underground will give the above-ground some time to make

Lindy Greene DIY Speech (cont.)

inroads. If progress is negligible or slow, the underground may "step in." Several noisy - but legal - home demonstrations have recently been held in the neighborhoods of POM executives. After about 6 months of such protests, the Animal Rights Militia sent in a communique claiming that it had contaminated - apparently with some kind of mild gastrointestinal irritant - 487 bottles of POM juice in nutritional product stores along the Eastern seaboard. No one to date has come forward claiming digestive discomfort or distress after imbibing a POM product - but the action succeeded in drawing national attention to POM's grisly animal experiments and fictitious product health claims when the Press Officers were solicited for multiple media interviews. In typical fashion, POM - able with impunity to torture and murder animals and tout false product health benefits to consumers - wails interminably about being "harassed" by animal rights "radicals."

You've no doubt noticed the current political climate which actively marginalizes, demonizes, and criminalizes dissidence. The impediment for the government is the U.S. Constitution. That "pesky 'terrorist' document" is still in effect, though only barely so under a President defying it - and our supposedly legally binding international covenants - to commit genocide and torture. The authorities have had to find creative ways to get around the Bill of Rights in order to prosecute and punish animal rights activists. Suddenly, "demonstrating" has become "stalking," "harassing," or even "terrorizing." Organizing demos or posting "Action Alerts" (calls to protest) is "conspiracy." Rhetoric or chants that are admittedly "edgy" but technically protected speech are "threats." And while the courts may be ultimately forced to dismiss such trumped-up and spurious charges, such are still levied against activists in the interim in order to subject them to citations, civil suits, lengthy criminal justice procedings, injunctions, arrests, incarcerations, grand jury subpoenas, and home raids.

In the latter, police and FBI appear at an activist's door with guns drawn and a search warrant for the premises. Officers and agents ransack drawers, shelves, cabinets, and closets hoping for "proof" of "ties to" or "participation in" illegal direct action. Animal rights literature; tee shirts, sweatshirts, and buttons saying "Support ALF"; placards and leaflets; and bandanas or balaclavas (masks) constitute "evidence" - at least of "sympathizing" (which we don't deny), if not a tangible liaison - with the underground. The real prize the authorities are after is personal computers - so that they can look into the address books to identify other activists and defrag the hard drives to retrieve e-mails. I have been the recipient of two home raids (and I know there will be more). Another Press Officer - and several local grassroots campaigners - have also been targeted.

The first time for me was 21 months ago. I was home and forced to remain seated on the couch under FBI guard. The second time occurred on this past Hallowe'en Day. I was at a legal demonstration at UCLA. Under the Patriot Act, however, law enforcement had the authority to break down my door and enter my apartment without my presence. Trick or Treat! It's the cops and the feds! If I'd known, I'd have done my weekly cleaning a couple of days early - so they wouldn't think me a slovenly housekeeper!

I actually believed (this is how naive I can still be, even after eighteen years in the animal rights movement) that I would not have another computer confiscated - because the FBI told me straight up after the first raid that they were en route to my Internet Services Provider with a warrant to read my e-mails. I figured they wouldn't bother to defrag another hard drive when they can snag my electronic communications right off Adelphia's servers! I'm told I'm a fairly good writer with an irrepressible sense of humor - so, I trust they're having a good time. I'll even provide the coffee and doughnuts! When they read my bushrants, I'll probably be placed on the no-fly list - or maybe even sent to Guantanamo Bay to be treated to some of those "alternative interrogation techniques." I now have a whole-disk encryption program installed on my computer. Is it because I have something to hide? Most emphatically not! It's pure revenge.

Los Angeles has been a hotbed of ALF activity, and law enforcement is highly frustrated. Because they can't identify and catch members of the ALF, they are harassing above-ground activists. As one protester puts it, "As long as the heat is on the above-ground, the underground remains safe." While that heat is aggravating and inconvenient, we are not being tortured and murdered (well, not yet, anyway) like the animals. Our court cases do end, and we do get out of jail. For the animals, there is no "end" and no "getting out." Their only release is death. What's so laughable to seasoned above-ground activists is law enforcement's ingenuous fantasy that the underground would organize, announce, and stage public demonstrations at which it would be videotaped and identified - and then send out "demo wraps" of same to online list serves.

With all the heat on the above-ground, the consensus seems to be that it is now safer to fight underground! But the Press Officers and our local contingent of grassroots activists have already chosen public paths. It's too late to change course. We are all known on sight across several police jurisdictions and by the FBI and JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force). I joke about myself that I am the only 5'11" 60-year-old redhead protesting in Los Angeles. The authorities would nail me in a New York minute if I were to engage in illegal activity. We're all proud of and content with our roles demonstrating, writing, and speaking. The animal rights movement needs a public face. Mine is now lined and aging, but the animals don't care about that.

Sometimes people ask, "Why do you fight for animals when there are so many humans who are oppressed?" Well, we would - and do - fight for people, too. That question seems to imply, though, that animals are somehow less "worthy" of compassion and defense. Discrimination on the basis of species membership is called "speciesism." It is analogous to - and just as ugly as - sexism and racism. By dismissing animals from the social collective and excluding them from statutory protection, we condone their subjugation and tyrannization. We accept today - in theory, at least - that children are not here to serve adults, women are not here to serve men, and blacks are not here to serve whites. It is now incumbent upon us to analogize that animals are not here to serve humans - and to recognize that the capacity to suffer is not species-dependent.

There is so much injustice In the world today - and no one person or group has the time or resources to address every worthy cause in existence. We are consequently obligated by intrinsic and extrinsic constraints to "pick and choose our battles." The same forces oppress both humans and animals. We have a common enemy. If we would stand and work together in support and solidarity, we could increase our power exponentially.

Thank you again for listening. Please visit www.animalliberationpressoffice.org and come over to chat personally at the NAALPO table. We have a lot of interesting literature and would love to add you to our e-mail list to receive Press Releases. We'd also like to learn more about your causes and how we can assist. Be sure, also, to stop by the Animal Defense League Los Angeles (ADLLA) table if you'd like to become active in any of our local animal rights campaigns.

It was truly an honor to be here with you today.

The Trouble With Animal Models

Why did human trials fail?

By Andrea Gawrylewski

http://www.the-scientist.com/article/home/53306/

On October 26, 2006, at the opening day of the Joint World Congress for Stroke in Cape Town, South Africa, disappointing news spread quickly among the attendees: The second Phase III clinical trial for NXY-059 had failed. The drug, a free-radical spin trap agent for ischemic stroke, had been eagerly anticipated as a successful neuroprotective agent for stroke patients. As the drug developer, AstraZeneca, issued a press release reporting the news, e-mails circulated quickly within the stroke research community, many with the subject line, "Have you heard the bad

The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

news?"

"We were optimistic that this would be the new stroke drug," says Marc Fisher, director of the stroke program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, who was at the conference in Cape Town. "We were all talking about it. There were a lot of long faces that day."

To the dismay of clinicians and researchers of acute stroke, the compound showed limited efficacy in neuroprotection versus the placebo. Instead, NXY-059 joined the family of more than a dozen failed neuroprotective agents, including glutamate antagonists, calcium channel blockers, anti-inflammatory agents, GABA agonists, opioid antagonists, growth factors, and drugs of other mechanisms. All had reached Phase III clinical trials and failed miserably at doing what their animal model tests had suggested they would: stop the cascade of necrosis in the event of stroke, and protect the remaining viable brain cells.

That NXY-059 had fallen victim to the same fate was particularly disheartening to a stroke roundtable group that had, in 1999, directly addressed the disconnection between animal models for stroke and their counterpart human trials. The group had devised a set of guidelines whose aim was to standardize the path to stroke therapeutics. During its development, NXY-059 had been its poster child. "This drug was being hailed as the first one to follow the standards," says Sean Savitz, assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. "But it didn't do that."

"It was very disappointing to all of us to have it fail, and it totally failed," says Sid Gilman, director of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan, and one of the consultants for AstraZeneca on the Phase III clinical design.

If the outcome of the Stroke Acute Ischemic NXY Treatment (SAINT) trials was an anomaly, investigators might have just shrugged it off. But it's not: Nearly half of all molecular entities that come into development fail, according to Janet Woodcock, deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. "There's no doubt about the absence of an effect [of NYX-059], and that called into question the many other studies in stroke, and how good are the animal models?" Says Gilman. "So many agents appeared to be effective in the animal model and failed in human trials."

Because of these failures, hundreds of millions of dollars, and a potential approach to stroke treatment, have disappeared down the drain. The failure of NXY-059 may have stalled the quest for a neuroprotective agent, at least for some time. "This trial has poisoned stroke studies," says Gilman. "I'm doubtful that investors will want to invest in clinical stroke trial[s] for a while." The fault, it appears, may rest in the slipshod use of animal models.

In 1998, Fisher flew from Boston to Germany to help a drug company, along with academics specializing in animal modeling, to examine two sets of clinical trial results for a new stroke treatment that had failed. They wanted to uncover where they had gone wrong. (Fisher declines to disclose the company and trials that were involved.) AstraZeneca also tested NXY-059 in the CHANT clinical trials to treat intracranial hemorrhage, but further development past the phase II trial was culled after the failure of SAINT II.

On his return flight, it occurred to Fisher that the chaos the stroke research field had been facing for years might benefit from the kind of meeting he had just attended: industry and academia collaborating to develop standardized practices. The next year, Fisher convened the first Stroke Therapy Academic Industry Roundtable (STAIR) group that devised a set of recommendations for preclinical and clinical stroke drug development. On the preclinical side, some of the recommendations seemed obvious: The candidate drug should be evaluated in rodents and also higher animal species; blind testing should be performed; tests should be done in both sexes and in varying ages of animals; and all data, both positive and negative, should be published.

Approximately 26 million animals are used for research each year in the United States and European Union, according to estimates by the Research Defense Society in the United Kingdom. However, the number of animal procedures has been reduced by half over the past 30 years, likely due to stricter controls, improvements in animal welfare, and scientific advances.

Still, unlike in human clinical trials, no best-practice standards exist for animal testing. STAIR is the stroke research community's attempt at standardization. NXY-059 was the first neuroprotective agent to be developed under the auspices of the STAIR guidelines, though the implementation of the guidelines may have been just lip service. In particular, as Savitz wrote in an article published online in Experimental Neurology in May, the preclinical testing had several holes, including statistical robustness and the way in which the results were translated into clinical design.1

The main problems, Savitz writes, were randomization and bias. In the initial evaluation of NXY-059 in rat models of focal ischemia, reports didn't say whether researchers had been blinded with regard to drug administration, behavioral testing, and histologic analysis. The results from the rodent study were mixed, showing a range of reduction of cerebral infarction size over a variety of intervals. However positive the results might have been, Savitz notes, the clear lack of statistical robustness calls any result into question. A subsequent report on the effects of NXY-059 in a rabbit embolic model showed a 35% reduction in infarction after 48 hours, but it did not indicate whether statistical analysis, blind testing, physiologic measurements, blood flow monitoring, or behavior assessments had been done.

AstraZeneca maintains that the preclinical animal tests and the clinical phase of SAINT adhered to the STAIR guidelines: "The design of the SAINT trials was sound and well considered in light of the strong evidence for neuroprotection that existed across the models and species tested at the time," according to a statement sent to The Scientist in response to Savitz's paper. Gilman, also editor-in-chief of Experimental Neurology, says he is not aware of any official response being drafted or submitted by AstraZeneca. "So many agents appeared to be effective in the animal model and failed in human trials."

The statistical troubles that mired some of the NXY-059 preclinical trials are common in animal models. Surveys of papers based on animal models find errors in about half, according to Michael Festing, a recently retired laboratory animal scientist at the UK Medical Research Council and board member of the National Center for Three Rs (NC3Rs- replacement, refinement, and reduction), an organization that advocates using fewer animals in research and streamlining current animal tests. "Whether those are serious enough that the conclusions are invalid is debatable," Festing says.

Even the innumerous successful cases of animal experimentation that led to effective treatments for high blood pressure, asthma, transplant rejection, and the polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough vaccines were all carried out without standardized testing methods.

"People don't report if studies are randomized," says Ian Roberts, professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. How animals are selected, or whether assessments were blind, are rarely included in the methods and thus create a potential for bias. "Imagine a cage of 20 rats, and you've got a treatment for some," explains Roberts. "So you stick your hand in a cage, and pull out a rat. The rats that are the most vigorous are hardest to catch, so when you pull out 10 rats, they're the sluggish ones, the tired ones, they're not the same as the ones still in the cage, and they're the control. Immediately there's a difference between the two groups."

The NC3Rs, in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health, is

The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

surveying a group of 300 papers, half from the United Kingdom, half from the United States, for their statistical quality in mouse, rat, and primate model studies. Researchers hope that by fall they will have a report describing how well (or not) the studies were randomized and whether they used the correct statistical methods. In an initial pilot study of 12 papers conducted in 2001 for the Medical Research Council, Festing reported: In six of the papers the number of animals used wasn't clear; only two of the papers reported randomization; and only six of the papers specified the sex of the animals tested. (For more on how gender can influence results, see "Why Sex Matters".)

Statistics aren't the only problem. Methodology is arbitrary, replication is lacking, and negative results are often omitted. A report in Academic Emergency Medicine by Vik Bebarta et al. in 2003 showed that animal experiments where randomization and blind testing are not reported are five times more likely to report positive results.2 In a December 2006 paper in the British Medical Journal, Pablo Perel et al. showed that in six clinical trials for conditions including neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, hemorrhage, and osteoporosis, only three of the trials had corresponding animal studies that agreed with clinical results.3 The authors attribute this discrepancy to poor methodology (i.e., bias in the animal models) and the failure of the models to mimic the human disease condition.

The difficulties associated with using animal models for human disease result from the metabolic, anatomic, and cellular differences between humans and other creatures, but the problems go even deeper than that. When experimenting in animals researchers often use incorrect statistical methods, adopt an arbitrary methodology, and fail to publish negative results.

One of the major criticisms of the NXY-059 testing was the lack of correlation between how the effects of the drug were monitored in animals versus in humans. In the rodent model, researchers induced an ischemic event, administered the drug at various time intervals, and measured the size of the infarction. During the clinical trials, however, the drug's effect was evaluated in stroke patients using behavioral indicators such as the modified Rankin scale and NIH stroke severity (NIHSS) scale. In the primate tests the behavior assessments were based on a food-reward system, showing that NXY-059 did not improve left arm weakness in the aftermath of a stroke. "Even if we accept that NXY-059 does improve arm weakness," writes Savitz, "how would such a finding translate to human acute stroke studies that use the modified Rankin scale and NIHSS scores as primary outcome measures?" Indeed, some consider the two phases of testing, from animal to human, completely out of whack, and that only by statistical fluke was SAINT I, the first clinical trial, deemed a success.

Some say that animal research is best when targeted at specific mechanisms of action. "Animals are better used for understanding disease mechanism and potential new treatments, rather than predicting what will happen in humans," says Simon Festing, executive director of RDS (and son of Michael Festing). RDS is a UK organization that advocates the understanding of animal research in medicine. "The 2001 Nobel Prize in medicine involved sea urchins and yeast, organisms that evolved apart from humans by millions of years," says the younger Festing. "And yet, they are ideal models for studying cell divisions- research that is being used in cancer therapeutics in humans now."

For specific models of human disease, Simon Festing adds, the farther away from the human species the animal studies get, the less predictive the model will be. For example, researchers studying some conditions, including Parkinson disease, have established a clear animal model. The primate model displays symptoms similar to human symptoms, whereas a mouse model may not be able to show the distinct tremor in the limbs. While this difference in essence relates back to fundamental anatomic variation among the various species, finding the best model is inherently difficult. "The choice of animals is rather narrow," says Michael Festing. "There are 4,000 species of rodents, but we use only three or four of them. Then there's a shortage of anything that's not rodents, and in some cases we're restricted to dogs and cats- which are a problem from the ethical point of view - and primates, also a problem from the ethical point of view. So [choosing the right animal model is] sort of done by default: Eliminate the ones that are not suitable and choose from what's left."

Perhaps because of its abundance and short gestation, the mouse has become the flagship of animal testing, especially useful with genetic modifications, gene knockouts, and knockins. In 2003, NIH launched the Knockout Mouse Project (KOMP) and has awarded more than $50 million with the goal of creating a library of mouse embryonic stem cells lines, each with one gene knocked out.

Nonetheless, even genetically manipulated mice have their problems. The current knockout mouse model for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may be completely wrong, according to John Trojanowski at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He and colleagues recently showed that two versions of the disease, sporadic and hereditary, are biochemically distinct, and that a different mechanism controls the disease in each case.4 In hereditary ALS the disease is associated with a mutation (SOD-1), whereas the sporadic cases are associated with the TDP-43 protein. Until now, research has focused primarily on SOD-1 knockout mice, with virtually no success in human trials. The new findings relating to the TDP-43 protein suggest that the SOD-1 knockout model for ALS could be wrong. "There was this nagging doubt" about the validity of the current models, Trojanowski says. "And there may be a whole new pathology characteristic, so we need models based on TDP-43."

A recent study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows distinct differences between gene regulation in humans and mouse liver-particularly how the master regulatory proteins function.5 In a comparison of 4,000 genes in humans and mice, the researchers expected to see identical behavior ï¿,ï¾- that is, the binding of transcription factors to the same sites in most pairs of homologous genes. However, they found that transcription factor binding sites differed between the species in 41% to 89% of the cases.

Many of the underlying limitations associated with mice models involve the inherent nature of animal testing. The laboratory environment can have a significant effect on test results, as stress is a common factor in caged life. Jeffrey Mogil, a psychology researcher at McGill University in Quebec, demonstrated last year that laboratory mice feel "sympathy pains" for their fellow labmates. In other words, seeing another mouse in distress elevates the amount of distress the onlooker displays. The average researcher, when testing for toxicity effects in mice for example, likely assumes that they are starting at a pain baseline, when in truth the surrounding environment is not benign and can significantly affect results, Mogil says. Choosing the right animal model is "sort of done by default: Eliminate the ones that are not suitable and choose from what's left." -Michael Festing

In new research, Mogil's group is demonstrating that the very presence of a lab researcher can alter behavior in mice. "The surprising thing is that these effects are visual, not auditory or olfactory," he says. "It's a huge surprise. Most people think [mice] are mostly blind anyway. I'm being convinced that the visual world of the mouse is a lot richer than expected."

Although the failure of NXY-059 may be one insult too many for clinicians and patients eagerly awaiting a neuroprotective agent, some experts feel that this hurdle is far from being the final chapter. Whether they blame weak animal test standardization, poor clinical design, or inadequate statistical analysis, questions often return to the NXY-059 itself as an indicator for the future of neuroprotection. "This drug is known to have antioxidant effects, but it was never shown what its mechanism was on the brain. Early studies were only hinting at possibilities," Savitz says.

In a field where much work is concentrating on nitrone-based spin trap agents, NXY-059 became the parent compound. But it's clear that it wasn't the answer. "The drug probably isn't a good drug to begin with," says

The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

Myron Ginsberg, professor of neurology and clinician at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Despite NYX-059's disappointing failure, other neuroprotective options are still in the pipeline. Ginsberg is in the early stages of working on albumin as a neuroprotective therapeutic, and researchers are also considering hypothermia as a way of preserving brain cells after ischemic stroke. "The fact that this drug failed, Ginsberg says, "doesn't say anything about the potential for neuroprotection [in the future.]."

Better Lab Testing May End Use of Animals

Associated Press: June 12, 2007

WASHINGTON - Improved laboratory testing could speed the process of checking chemicals for toxicity and reduce reliance on test animals, according to an analysis released Tuesday.

The National Research Council said improvements in methods of testing cells and tissues could lead to fundamental changes in the way toxicity testing is done.

Using cells, preferably of human origin, lab tests could indicate potential danger to humans by observing the effect on those cells or cell lines of commercial pesticides and other chemicals.

Currently, chemicals are generally tested by giving them to animals in large doses. Humans are usually exposed to much lower doses, however, so the animal results are not always directly applicable.

Improved methods could accelerate process
And, the current system can be time consuming, while lab tests in calls can be done more quickly, according to the council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study, requested by the Environmental Protection Agency, recommends looking into newly developed test methods focusing on cellular pathways that, when disturbed, tend to lead to illness.

So called “high-throughput assays” can test hundreds or thousands of chemicals over a wide range of concentrations determine the chemicals’ effects.

While animal testing will still be needed, using new test methods could reduce the need for such tests and potentially eliminate it at some point, the report said.

However, substantial research will be needed to develop and prove the value of the new tests, the report noted.

The National Academy is a private institution chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific matters.

When can we reasonably expect abolition?

Months not decades

Arkangel Magazine

How many times have you heard the line of compromise: “we look forward to a time when we have better methods, and animal tests can be abandoned”? It’s a line they’ve been using to justify vivisection for decades. But this line isn’t going to work anymore. The thinking behind it has the potential to start dismantling up the industry right now. Interested in making this happen? Read on.

There’s a big gap between what can be proved, and what is generally known. Decades ago it was understood that animal tests were not the reliable pre-clinical test they were claimed to be. For most of the last century good non animal methods existed. But the real change has been the last decade, when the use of technology has meant that the ‘alternative’ non-animal methods are so incisive and accurate that they are preferable to animal tests. That time - at which animal tests can be abandoned with no concern for the impact on science - is now.

Cell culture technology

In the year 2000 toxicology experts compared cell culture and animal data against human data in an international study. It was discovered that cell culture was much more predictive of human data than animal tests were. Since then, cell cultures have improved in accuracy. Several skin and eye models have evolved, which means product safety is more accurately assessed.

Finding useful drugs

Previous efforts to test cancer drugs for effectiveness used animals, which was admitted by all involved to be a disaster. It was believed to have missed useful drugs, and all drugs it did identify were useless or toxic. Now, the American National Cancer Institute maintains cultures of 60 different human cancers, and can screen thousands of drugs and plants a year against them. It’s cheaper, quicker, and much more accurate.

Healthy Babies

While birth defect rates are rocketing, a review of animal tests for teratogenicity (the ability to cause birth defects) showed that they had been terrible: slightly more effective than pure guesswork. There’s even a theory than any substance can be shown to a teratogen by animal tests, and there’s no substance discovered which proves this wrong. Oxygen, essential vitamins, fruit juices and water have been ‘proven’ dangerous in animals, although safe in humans. Over 97% of substances identified as dangerous by animal tests are safe.

The alternative? The Embryonic Stem Test (EST). In cell culture, it’s more accurate than a range of animal tests. The Micromas (MM) is similar and 100% effective in identifying strong teratogens. This whole area of vivisection could and should be abandoned now.

Computers

Given the rate at which computer technology is advancing, it’s not surprising that amazing things can be done. Virtual hearts can be given virtual drugs and the effect on their rhythm and activity simulated accurately. Drug companies are taking this technology on readily. An entire virtual human has been in development recently, and versions are already available. Drugs can be tried on these flexible models, which give accurate results.

Microdose

Imaging technology was developed by brain researchers and enables great insight into what’s going on in the body. It can even trace the effect and pathway of tiny doses of test drugs when they're given to a human. To evaluate the technique (known as ‘microdose’), one millionth (0.0001%) of HIV drug AZT was given to patients. Conclusions were in detail, for example “between 30 and 45 minutes 0.09% of the oral dose resided in the white blood cells of the blood”. They were also able to see how it entered the genetic material.

By comparison, animals metabolise drugs along different pathways, at different rates, and because their organs are different, the reactions are usually different. Through using computers, cell culture and microdosing, we can easily gain a better picture of a drug’s safety, and can therefore abandon animal tests in this area too.

Protein analysis

Now it's understood that disease starts in the individual cells, which are

When can we reasonably expect abolition? (cont.)

different in all animals. It's increasingly clear that the individual proteins in the cell determine how illnesses develop. Proteomics analyses proteins and is cataloguing them. This area is already giving masses of information about individual illnesses.

The above techniques are only scratching the surface of the masses of technology which wasn't available before, but is now.

The point is that if we could only stop animal experiments when suitable replacement methods are available, that time is very clearly here.

But this comes at a time when animal tests are increasing. The UK Home Office has just lost a court case over its failure to regulate animal tests. Drug companies are still getting licences to use animal tests when alternative methods are not only available, but they are superior.

What are we going to do with this?

The gap between the general knowledge of this situation and the reality is massive. We need to bridge the gap. There's no easy answer, and new suggestions and methods are welcome. VIN has recently started a Newspaper Group to target national and regional press to help spread the truth. If you have ideas, please get in touch. If you'd like to help but are unsure about your own writing skills etc., you'll get help so get in touch.

VIN (Vivisection Information Network) exists to get the medical information better known, knowing that this evidence has the potential to bring vivisection to a stop - literally. If we're going to make this happen, the first question we need to ask is what each of us can individually do to spread this knowledge.

Vivisection Information Network. P O Box 223, Camberley, GU16 5ZU
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UC Davis clears staff in deaths of monkeys
Los Angeles Times- July 17, 2007

DAVIS, CALIF. — Researchers at UC Davis did not mistreat seven monkeys who died in their care after a building ventilation system malfunctioned, according to a report released Monday by the university.

The report dismissed allegations that had been raised last year by a former employee who said that researchers routinely abused monkeys at the university's primate research center.

In the report, campus investigators called the allegations "unfounded, out of context or too vague to be pursued properly."

"Our initial reaction to these claims was that they were baseless, but I nonetheless felt it appropriate to request an investigation," center director Dallas Hyde said in a statement.

Cheri Stevens, a former animal care technician at the California National Primate Research Center, said seven monkeys died in the summer of 2004 after the building's ventilation system failed.

She said officials did not respond to her requests that the monkeys be moved even though the room's temperature reached 115 degrees.

Stevens, speaking last fall at a news conference that had been convened by the activist group Stop Animal Exploitation Now!, also complained of routine mistreatment and starvation of the monkeys.

Michael Budkie, the executive director of the Ohio-based group, called the UC Davis report a whitewash and said that better national oversight of primate research was needed.

"To begin with, the people that are conducting this investigation are the very people who would be on some level at fault if there was any admission of impropriety," Budkie said.

The investigation was led by the university's attending veterinarian and members of the campus Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The university paid a $4,815 fine to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in December 2005 because of the deaths of the monkeys.

Animal Experiments Continue to Rise in UK

UK Government figures show rise to over 3 million scientific procedures on animals in 2006.

Latest Government figures for 2006 on animal research show a rise to 3.01 million of scientific procedures on animals in the UK, up 115,800 on 2005 or just under 10,000 a month. In addition the report showed that 133,800 more animals were used in experiments, representing a 5% increase on the previous year.

Jan Creamer, chief executive of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) said: "The increase in the use of animals in research is out of step with public opinion in the UK and Europe today." A MORI Poll in February 2005 recorded that 81% of people agreed that there needs to be more research into alternatives to animal experimentation and 76% could only accept animal experimentation with no unnecessary suffering to animals.

A new poll released today by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) also concurs with the findings of the 2005 MORI poll, showing that 80 percent of the GB public are in favour of some type of a ban on experiments which cause suffering to animals.

The public opinion poll conducted by YouGov also showed that forty-three per cent of respondents think the government should support a ban on

Animal Experiments Continue to Rise in UK (continued)

experiments causing any suffering to animals, and 34 per cent think the government should support a ban on experiments causing the most suffering to animals. The poll questioned adults on whether the government should support bans on such experiments in new legislation which is currently passing through the European Union. The Home Office figures show that a total of 2.94 million individual animals were used in 2006, an increase of 4.6 per cent since 2005. The number of experiments performed has broken the 3 million barrier for the first time since the early 1990s.

The poll, which was sponsored by PETA and conducted this July, also shows that more than half of respondents want the government to actively introduce a strategy to reduce animal experiments (51 per cent) and increase the allocation of funds for developing non-animal research methods (53 per cent). Animal experiments in the UK were reduced by half between the 1970s and 1997, but since 2000, numbers have been rising. Government expenditure on developing alternatives to animal experiments is currently estimated to be between £2 million and £10 million each year – a maximum of only 0.2 per cent of the government's total science budget of £5 billion.

Jan Creamer continued "It is outrageous that at a time when there are more non-animal methods of research available than ever before, the number of animal experiments in the UK continue to rise, and rise, and rise. The public has shown their distaste for genetically modified (GM) food and products and yet the use of GM animals has more than quadrupled since 1995, accounting for 37% of all procedures in 2006, up by 74,500. These increases are happening as results from animal research are increasingly shown to be unreliable, as well as being unethical and unnecessary."

BUAV Chief Executive Michelle Thew commented ""“The Government’s handling of the entire animal experiment licensing system is deeply flawed. The Home Office is this week charged in a Judicial Review at the High Court with ignoring its duty to ensure laboratory animal suffering is kept to a minimum and pulling the wool over the public’s eyes about the numbers of experiments that cause substantial animal suffering in laboratories up and down the UK.

It’s high time the Government woke up to public concern on this issue by demonstrating real political will to take steps to end the suffering caused by animal experiments in the UK. At the very least the public should expect is a long overdue open and honest public debate.”

Academics now dominate animal experimentation - Universities carry out nearly half (45%) of procedures, with commercial interests such as drug companies, in second place carrying out 35% of procedures. This has been a dramatic shift in recent years. Previously the majority of animal experiments were conducted by drug companies.

Tests on macaque monkeys dropped by 12%, giving hope that the use of this species can be halted. The NAVS currently has a Written Declaration before the European Parliament calling for a phase out of primate tests, which has the backing of 296 MEPs.

2006 statistics on animal research - main points:

• The number of scientific procedures increased to just over 3.01 million 4% up on 2005 four times the increase from 2004-2005 which was 41,254 (1%). Up by 115,800 it represents just under 10,000 more animal tests a month.

• 133,800 more animals were used (5% increase) in 2006 in experiments in the UK

• The use of animals solely for procedures for breeding harmful mutant and genetically modified animals accounted for 1.1 million procedures (37%) in 2006, up 74,500 (7%) from 2005 as part of a continuing trend.

• Genetically modified (GM) were used in 1.04 million (34%) procedures in 2006, some 77,900 (8%) more than in 2005. The use of GM animals has more than quadrupled since 1995.

• About 698,400 (67%) GM animals were used to maintain breeding colonies, a similar proportion to last year. An additional 311,200 (30%) were used for fundamental biological research.

• Number of horses & other equids was 701 up from 294, an increase of 407 or 230%.

• Use of mice in experiments was up by 106,000 procedures, an increase of 5%.

• Genetically modified mice: 1,237,563 up from 1,147,000 an increase of 90,563

• Only 38% of procedures used anaesthesia - i.e. 1,866,200 procedures, 62% of procedures, did not use any anaesthesia.

• Although numbers of old world primates increased by 440 from 2004-2005, the increase in 2005 was marked at 11%. New world primate procedures stayed more or less level, down by only 13.

• Use of animals in Appendix 1 on the CITES list or in Annex C.1 to the Council Regulation (EEC) 3626/82 amounted to 84 procedures performed on animals in this category in 2006, all 'other' birds.

• Universities carry out nearly half (45%) of procedures with commercial interests in second place carrying out 35% of procedures.

US Food and Drug Administration figures show that 92 per cent of drugs which pass animal trials are found to be unsafe or ineffective in human trials and never reach the market. More than 10,000 people are killed every year in the UK by side effects of prescription medicines – now the fourth biggest killer in the Western world – which were approved after being tested on animals.

On Informants

By Zig-Zag

An excerpt from "A Report on the Case of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, the Trial of Arlo Looking Cloud, John Graham, AIM, & FBI Counter-Insurgency"

Informants, collaborators, rats, snitches. These are ugly words with negative implications. Some people would rather not think about such 'unpleasant' things. Nevertheless, those engaged in resistance must understand the role and nature of informants & collaborators.

Informants are persons in a group, or associated with it, who give information to our enemy. They may be genuine members who turn against the group, or people who enter the group with the intent to gather information. The term informant is usually applied to civilians recruited or cultivated for this purpose (i.e., a cop who infiltrates a group is not an informant, he/she is a cop).

Collaborators are persons who work with or in some way assist our enemy. They may provide information, but may also take a more active role.

The most common method of recruiting informants is to find people with problems. These could be financial, drug addictions, legal charges & possible imprisonment, mental or emotional problems, etc. Also recruited are group members who are isolated or who feel betrayed by the group. All of these are potentially vulnerable to pressure.

On Informants (continued)

Money itself can be a motivating factor for someone to turn informant, and in many cases it is the primary motive for informants over extended periods of time.

Why are informants and collaborators so despised and shunned? Because they have violated a sacred trust and a principle. That principle is simple: do not betray others to our common enemy. By doing so, a person loses our trust. But these are philosophical matters.

In practice, informants & collaborators are dangerous because of the sensitive and intimate knowledge they may have of individuals and groups. This is why they are used by police agencies. The passing of such information to enemy forces can, and does, result in casualties. It is a common charge in both military and civilian legal codes, usually referred to as treason. It is most frequently punished with death.

It is also common for resistance movements engaged in combat to punish and execute informants and collaborators. Why? Because they contribute to casualties, repression, demoralization, and defeat. It may be an unpleasant part of conflict, but it is a reality that cannot be ignored. A movement which does not defend itself is doomed to defeat.

- In the Aquash case, it has been asserted that even if Aquash was an informant & was therefore killed by AIM, this is inherently wrong and therefore the shooter(s) must be punished. In principle, is the execution of a woman, believed to be an informant, an acceptable practice?

If we agree that under conditions of war, collaborators are in fact executed in order to defend the group & individuals, then we must accept this irregardless of whether or not that person is a man or a woman. The act of collaborating does not distinguish itself based on one's sexuality.

Therefore, the claim that Anna Mae's death is inexcusable because she was a woman, "informer or not," is not correct in either principle or in practice.

There are many important lessons to be drawn from the case of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, who died either as a direct, or indirect, result of FBI counter-insurgency operations against AIM. These lessons include the following:

- Our enemy is armed and dangerous, and actively works to destroy our movements using whatever means necessary.

- Collaborators & informants lead to casualties, demoralization, and eventually defeat. These activities must be discouraged & seen as Unacceptable for members of our movement to engage in.

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Many more anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last few weeks, including those signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

July 5, 2007
Several ALF members spraypainted the home of Ellyn Brown, who sits on the board of the NYSE, with slogans that read, "NYSE Puppy Killers" and "Drop HLS" Just days later, a banner was dropped across her front gate that read, "Drop HLS from NYSE for Good"

July 8, 2007
According to media reports, seven restaurants that serve foie gras and/or veal were vandalized in Austin, Texas late on July 2. Slogans were spray-painted on the following restaurants: Aquarelle, Eddie V's Edgewater Grille, Fleming's, Restaurant Jezebel, Ruth's Chris Steak House, the Spaghetti Warehouse and Truluck's.

July 29, 2007
An interesting package was mailed to the home of Arthur Rosenbaum at 465 Loring Avenue, Los Angeles. Arthur is a sick and twisted animal torturer and murderer involved in the primate vivisection program at UCLA. Be careful Arthur. We are only just getting started. This action is a mere token when compared to the other things that we can and will do. Your address and your phone numbers are out along with your dirty and disgusting secrets and you will be feeling even more pressure. You have one choice. Stop vivisecting!

August 2, 2007
Recently, Eliot Spindel, vivisector at the Oregon National Primate Research Center earned a visit from the vegan vigilantes called the ALF. His mansion at 5899 Sunbrook Drive in Lake Oswego Oregon, was given a makeover.

Eliot was awarded this privilege because his crimes against nature are particularly vile. Eliot's research involves addicting pregnant monkeys to Nicotine and killing their newborn babies at regular intervals to test what has been known for decades that smoking causes birth defects. It's time for Eliots blatant abuse of primates to end.

Our message to Eliot is simple: Quit the torture industry and issue an apology or we swear we will make an example out of you. Tonight you got your home and car fucked up with chemicals and spray paint, but what's going to be next, Eliot, spray paint, broken windows or fire bombs?

Look out behind you, Eliot. We have thousands of supporters and more every day. Whatever they pay you in one year, we promise we can match in damage in one night. We are everywhere, love and inspiration: ALF

August 8, 2007
On the night of August 5, the ALF commenced Operation White Marlin. The White Marlin Open is the biggest sport fishing tournament in the world. Killers from all over the world competed to slaughter the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Ex-military members of the Animal Liberation Front donned scuba gear and tactical equipment and took to the sea. 8 boats were permanently disengaged and disabled with their props welded and holes cut in the hauls allowing them to fill with water. Unfortunately there were 400 boats involved in the slaughter. 8 will never be used again. By Wednesday night the marina was heavily patrolled by coast guard and security and they attempted to divert boats to other marinas. Little did they know the ALF was in the water beneath them tracking the boats with their middle fingers extended. Thanks to the complicity of slactavists in the area the tournament continued but with fewer boats. Below is the slaughters names, boats and docking areas. We urge activists to take appropriate measures. Till Every Life Is Respected -ALF

August 15, 2007
According to media reports, as many as 500 mink were released from their cages at Berkshire Furs, in Hinsdale, Massachusetts, early in the morning of August 14. A police officer told local media, "Whoever did it had a plan. They knew what they were doing and knew what they wanted to do. They went in and cut the fence. They had it well planned." A member of the Carmel family who operate the farm described the impact of the raid as "devastating." Losses were estimated to be $100,000.

August 30, 2007
Svolvaer, Lofoten Islands, Norway: On the night of august 30th we decided to celebrate the end of commercial whaling in Iceland by removing a large section of cooling pipe in the engine room of the norwegian whaler "Willassen Senior". After ensuring that the vessel was unoccupied the salt water intake valve was opened unleashing a torrent of water into the heart of the killer ship that two years earlier took 14 minutes to brutally murder a threatened minke whale. The sinking of the whaler and the silencing of its deadly harpoon is dedicated to the memory of the yangtze river dolphin who because of humankinds greed will never again grace the waters of

Direct Action (cont.)

our blue planet. The turn of our wrenches is a rational response to a world where tens of thousands of species disappear every year.
- Agenda 21

September 10, 2007
Under the light of the moon on the morning of September second an office building owned by Farajollah Mahjoor the owner of Phenomenex was redecorated by the Animal Liberation Front.This property at 180 La Pata in San Clemente California was purchased with money soaked in the blood of tortured animals inside Huntingdon Life Sciences. Phenomenex is a key supplier to HLS and is directly responsible for the five hundred innocent animals who are vivisected and murdered on a daily basis inside their labs.

The front walk was stained blood red and twenty windows were destroyed by etching fluid and notes painted reading "We found you." That's right Farajollah we found you.You tried to hide the purchase of this property but we found it. You can't hide. Have fun replacing those windows and hang on to the glass company's phone number... you're going to need it.

It is our understanding that there have been many visits to your home and the homes of your family by committed and brave activists. We commend those activists and say to them "Keep it up." But Farajollah you have failed to listen and failed to make sound compassionate choices. Because of this we are on you now. We are the ALF and you are on our agenda now. Expect more. Expect worse. We will be passing thru your area again in the future. Drop HLS before then if you are smart. With reliable and humane options in existence to vivisection your continued support for HLS proves your vile greed. The murder and torment of beagle puppies that you support is dispicable and we have no issues with serving you true justice. Drop HLS! -ALF

September 17, 2007
According to media reports, as many as 6,000 mink were released from cages early Saturday at a fur farm near Harcourt, a town on the east coast of Newfoundland.

The Harcourt Mink Farm (located 1 kilometre east of Ryders Brook Bridge, off of Route 232, on Trinity Bay) is owned by Jorn Mogensen, a Danish mink farmer who operates several fur farms and related businesses in the area.

September 26, 2007
A bmw auto and an S.U.V. owned by Paul Moravek of 1613 Tyler Drive in Fullerton California will be needing new paint jobs after tonight, the night of Sunday Sept 23 2007. Paul will also notice his driveway flowing blood red, with the pristine white cement thouroughly stained.

Paul Moravek is V.P. of Moravek Biochemicals, a company in the practice of producing and selling hazardous and radioactive substances. As if this isn't moral violation enough, Moravek INC. is in the habit of supplying their toxic and deadly wares to H.L.S. where they are used to induce untold pain and disease upon hundreds of animals on a daily basis. H.L.S. conducts fraudulent science and tortures and murders without conscience.

For your support of H.L.S. Moravek, you were rewarded with a visit from the animal liberation front. Next time you cash an H.L.S. check remember that your gated neighborhood isn't very secure. Remember that we stood in your driveway and watched the flickering blue light from your t.v. Remember that we are capable of doing so much more. Tonight we used restraint that we are not convinced you deserve. Drop H.L.S. or there will be a next time. -ALF

September 26, 2007
"IN MEXICO WE ALSO FIGHT!
On October 1, a pet store was attacked, padlocks hit, paint-filled light bulbs thrown and a letter was left in the building, explaining the reason for the action and that if the captivity of animals continues, they would suffer the consequences. The F.L.A has arrived!"
Original Spanish communique:
"EN MEXICO TAMBIEN LUCHAMOS! el pasado 1 de Octubre se escucho el grito de Liberacion Animal en Mexico, se ataco una tienda de mascotas, se cellaron los candados, se hicieron pintas, se lanzaron bombillas de pintura y se dejo una carta en el inmueble, explicando la razon de la accion y que si seguian con el cautiverio animal, se atenieran a las consecuencias. ¡arriva el F.L.A! ¡MUERAN LOS GOBIERNOS QUE SOLAPAN A SESINOS!"

October 25, 2007
WATERFRONT PROPERTY IN BEVERLY HILLS FOR SALE! Edythe London, your job as administrator of the UCLA center that addicts primates to methamphetamines is dispicable. You appear to make all of the sick perverted vivisectors who addict primates to meth possible. Have you ever even witnessed the innocent monkeys that your mad scientists have addicted to methamphetamines as they convulse throughtout excrutiating withdrawl symptoms?

You may have the privilege of coordinating all of this pain and suffering from a slight distance, but as people who act out of conscience we will not allow you to simply lurk in the shawdows of UCLA's labs of torture. You are now in the spotlight of justice. Your address at 1249 Shadybrook Drive in Beverly Hills is now publicized for all to see. Until we see the end of primate vivisection at UCLA we will remind you of our presence. Push them to stop Edythe or we keep pushing. We never back down. We always win.

Here's how we get started. We found your million dollar house in Beverly Hills on the windy night of Saturday October 20, we discovered you weren't home so we snuck around to your backyard. First we effectively clogged the intake drain of your pool pump. It probably ran dry for a couple of hours and burned itself out. If it didn't happen, wait for it. It will. Next we smashed a window and inserted your garden hose, turned on to full blast of course. Bet you were surprized when you came home. Edythe do you have flood insurance?

One more thing Edythe, water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires.It would have been just as easy to burn your house down Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time. We will not stop until UCLA discontinues its primate vivisection programe.
We are the ALF

November 1, 2007
On the night of Thursday November 1st, the Animal Liberation Front entered a shed at Shepherd's Egg Farm near Spanish Fork, Utah to liberate as many hens as possible from this living hell.

In this single shed out of several, we saw literally tens of thousands of hens suffering in conditions even worse than we imagined. Words cannot sufficiently capture this nightmare. They were so crowded in battery cages they could hardly move at all, let alone spread their wings. They all had significant feather loss from struggling to get through the wire cages to escape for their lives. Many birds had their heads or wings stuck in the wires of their cages, and were left to die because they could not reach any food or water. Their beaks had been mutilated by factory workers. Everyday they must breathe in the overwhelming and disgusting stench from the mountains of manure below their cages. It should be no surprise that none of these birds receive one bit of veterinary care for their numerous injuries and diseases.There was a hole in the floor of the farm for workers to throw dead birds into a garbage can below (see footage). While the view inside Shepherd's Eggs was gruesome, it is in no way unique. These cruelties can be found in all modern egg farms, including so-called "free range" facilities.

We moved quickly to remove as many birds as we could. We knew that Shepherd's Eggs cared so little about their birds that they would likely not

Direct Action (cont.)

even notice that they were gone. We took one or two from each cage, so the remaining chickens would have a little more room. The exploiters will try to scare consumers out of supporting this liberation by saying we increased a risk of some sort of biological contamination. This is a lie. We took every possible precaution to ensure we wouldn't harm the hens or ourselves, including being covered head to toe with all of the necessary bio-safety gear.

Altogether we rescued 102 hens. All hens received veterinary care and were placed in loving homes. They ran around their new homes with joy, appreciative of their first experience of freedom. None were released into the wild. In their new homes they all have access to the outdoors. They can all breathe in fresh air. They are able to dust bathe and scratch the soil, instead of metal wires. They will all live out their full lifespan here instead of being killed when no longer profitable. In other words, these chickens can finally live like chickens.

All sentient animals, like these chickens, will always suffer as long as they are seen as nothing more than objects whose exploitation leads to increased profits and cheaper food. The only solution is to simply stop buying eggs and other animal products. Less than 1% of the hens at Shepherd's Eggs could be rescued today. It's up to consumers to save the other 99%.

Until consumers become responsible and stop paying the exploiters, you can count on the ALF to continue hurting their profits directly through property destruction and other forms of economic sabotage. Around the world the ALF is making progress and saving lives. This action is dedicated to all animal liberation prisoners including Barry Horne. Barry died six years ago today on a hunger strike. He would still be alive today if it wasn't for the stubborn cruelty of humanity. We will never forget Barry and we will never forgive the exploiters. -A.L.F.

November 9, 2007
To honor the SHAC Saturday, 10 November National March and Rally, Wachovia Bank, the second largest owner of Huntingdon Life Sciences shares, was targeted on the corner of El Toro Road and Paseo de Valencia in Laguna Woods, California.

Wachovia Bank, you may see torturing animals and fraudulent science as a sound investment. So we see you as one of our newest enemies. We dropped a small incindiary device into the after-hours deposit queue of your Laguna Woods branch last night. You will see more. Sell your shares in HLS.

Every single branch has one of these queues. It will be a large metal drawer next to the automated teller walk-up. Come on, activists! Leave off being bullied by police at demonstrations and give the abusers what they really deserve. -ALF

November 9, 2007
The entry gate to the walk up teller at a Wachovia satellite office in downtown LA was made inoperable by jamming super glue into the card access slot. A small sign reading "Wachovia tortures animals. Drop HLS assholes" was also affixed with super glue along with some other graffiti. Wachovia drop HLS or else this will not end. -ALF

November 16, 2007
On November 16, 2007 ALF visited a butcher shop in Queens, New York and spray painted 'MEAT=MURDER, SHUT DOWN OR DIE' across the wall. If this butcher shop does not follow the immediate request, a much more punishing action will be dealt against these scum. Making profit at the animals' expense is a filthy ritual. We will be back! Just know what to expect next time. Will it be a broken window? An arson attack? -ALF.

From Dusk 'Til Dawn,
a book written by former ALF member Keith Mann, is now being distributed by The North American Animal Liberation Press Office. Keith wrote this monumentous book over the past fifteen years, much of it while serving time in prison, or while on the run after his escape from prison.

From Dusk 'Til Dawn is truly an "Insiders View of the Growth of the Animal Liberation Movement", and has been given rave reviews by Morrisey as well as John Feldman of Goldfinger and Ingrid Newkirk. The novel would be a GREAT X-MAS gift to anyone who cares about the struggle for Animal Liberation. Even though the book is over 600 pages, it's a fast-paced and exciting read.

Though NAALPO supports the ideology of liberation groups who go beyond the non-violence of the Animal Liberation Front, we believe this book to be a necessary read for anyone who is interested in not only the ALF but in all others struggling for animal liberation.

Whether or not you support the ALF, after reading this book you will have a much better understanding as to why and how these brave individuals are willing to risk their lives and freedom to engage in direct action on behalf of non-human animals being oppressed, exploited, tortured and killed by humans for their own greed and satisfaction. For more information on the book, go to:
http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/Merchandise/Mann_From%20Dusk%20til%20Dawn.html

The book is $38.00 US, plus $5.00 shipping cost, the lowest possible price and a huge savings in postage compared to ordering from the UK directly. The Press Office will make sure Keith receives every dollar spent on the book, and is helping subsidize shipping costs to US buyers.

Send us your order by email to press@animalliberationpressoffice.org, making sure to include a complete address; you can pay us directly using a credit card via PayPal (send funds to naalpo@yahoo.ca), or send check, cash or money order to:

NAALPO
6320 Canoga Avenue Suite #1500
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jonathan Paul #07167-085
FCI Phoenix
Federal Correctional Institution
37910 N 45th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers # 1306729
Lane County Adult Corrections
101 West 5th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401-2695

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Pending re-sentencing!

Joyanna Zacher #703794
Multnomah County Iverness Jail
11540 NE Iverness Drive
Portland, OR 97220

NATHAN BLOCK #36359-086
Sheridan Federal Detention Center
P.O. BOX 6000
Sheridan, OR 97378-6000

Connection to the Jefferson Poplar Farm fire which occurred in 2001 in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- **Released!**

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Chris McIntosh #30512-013
USP Hazelton PO Box 2000
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

Chris is currently in his 3rd year of an 8 year sentence for arson at a McDonalds in Seattle.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

Volume 4, Number 1: January 2008

InThis Issue:

- **12 Myths About Direct Action** by anonymous
- **Moral Primitivism Anyone? A Satirical Examination of an Apologia for Industrialized Torture** by Jason Miller
- **Los Angeles Daily News Interview with Press Officer Lindy Greene**
- **Book Review: Charles Patterson's The Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust** by Steven Best, Ph.D.
- **Book Review: Churchhill's Pacifism as Pathology** by Patrice Greanville
- **Animal Extremists Get Personal** by Greg Miller, writing in *Science* Magazine
- **Big Headache for Big Pharma** by Will Hall, originally at Adbusters Magazine
- **Science Park Developer Quits After Animal Activist Threat** Dutch News

2007 was the third full year of operations at the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, which has had the good fortune to see acts of animal liberation continue to increase, and succeeded in increasing the visibility of that struggle and its victims. With the support of thousands of activists and benefactors, Press Officers completed more than 70 interviews last year with the mainstream media, provided the animals' side of the story in dozens of news articles and accounts, delivered inspirational and informative talks all over the world, and hopefully inspired many more people to join the struggle against those who abuse, exploit, torture, and murder non-human animals.

There were at least 53 claimed actions by the animal liberation underground in North America in 2007, almost twice the number from the year before - and there are undoubtedly many more actions that went unclaimed. From amongst these acts of liberation and sabotage, we were able to document and publicize numerous successes on behalf of animals in 2007, including:

* POM Wonderful juice company pledged to stop all animal testing after the Animal Rights Militia claimed to have tampered with their product on east coast store shelves (January 17)
* Animal Liberationist Peter Young was freed from prison, rejoining the movement to inspire activists to take on animal abusers (February 1)
* Eco-warrior Jeff Leurs had his 23 year prison sentence for burning SUV tires overturned. (February 15)
* 20 rabbits saw freedom in South Carolina as a result of an ALF liberation. (February 28)
* UCLA, UCSD and OHSU vivisectors come under increased attack; no more business-as-usual torturing animals in California and Oregon. (June, July, August, October, November, December)
* 8 fishing boats were disabled on the US east coast, unable to participate in tournament designed to kill fish for amusement (August 22)
* A Norwegian whaling ship was sunk in its harbor. (September 16)
* 6000 wild mink were set free from their prison by activists in Newfoundland. (September 18)
* Wachovia Securities and AXA Group cut their ties to HLS after ALF attacks. (November 17)
* 102 hens go free from Utah farm when ALF raids their facility. (November 23)

There were regrettably also some losses for animals during the year - most notably, the imprisonment of warriors from the Pacific Northwest who were victims of snitches, snitches like Jacob Ferguson, Stan Meyerhoff, Jen Kolar, Lacey Philabaum, Suzanne Savoie, Chelsea Gerlach, Darren Thurston, Kevin Tubbs, Kendall Tankersly, Lauren Weiner, Ryan Lewis and Zach Jensen. As a result, our movement added new prisoners Jonathan Paul, Daniel McGowan, Joyanna Zacher, Nathan Block, and Eric McDavid. These prisoners of the state need and deserve our support. To learn more, visit

http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/prisoners.htm

To all those liberationists and liberationists-to-be, you have our eternal thanks and never-ending support. To those who cannot or will not join their ranks, help out by supporting the Press Office instead of wasting your money sending it to national organizations that pay six-figure salaries and wallow in expensive office buildings. And to those who exploit, abuse, torture, and murder our non-human brethren: May you feel the heat in more ways than one in 2008!

For the animals:

This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge. Please note NEW ADDRESS!

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(818) 227-5022
Press@animalliberationpressoffice.org

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize therights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

12 Myths About Direct Action

by anonymous

Direct action, "that is, any kind of action that bypasses established political channels to accomplish objectives directly", has a long and rich heritage in North America, extending back to the Boston Tea Party and beyond. Despite this, there are many misunderstandings about it, in part due to the ways it has been misrepresented in the corporate media.

1. Direct action is terrorism.

Terrorism is calculated to intimidate and thus paralyze people. Direct action, on the other hand, is intended to inspire and thus motivate people by demonstrating the power individuals have to accomplish goals themselves. While terrorism is the domain of a specialized class that seeks to acquire power for itself alone, direct action demonstrates possibilities that others can make use of, empowering people to take control of their own lives. At most, a given direct action may obstruct the activities of a corporation or institution that activists perceive to be committing an injustice, but this is simply a form of civil disobedience, not terrorism.

2. Direct action is violent.

To say that it is violent to destroy the machinery of a slaughterhouse or to

12 Myths of Direct Action (continued)

break windows belonging to a party that promotes war is to prioritize property over human and animal life. This objection subtly validates violence against living creatures by focusing all attention on property rights and away from more fundamental issues.

3. Direct action is not political expression, but criminal activity.
Unfortunately, whether or not an action is illegal is a poor measure of whether or not it is just. The Jim Crow laws were, after all, laws. To object to an action on the grounds that it is illegal is to sidestep the more important question of whether or not it is ethical. To argue that we must always obey laws, even when we consider them to be unethical or to enforce unethical conditions, is to suggest that the arbitrary pronouncements of the legal establishment possess a higher moral authority than our own consciences, and to demand complicity in the face of injustice. When laws protect injustice, illegal activity is no vice, and law-abiding docility is no virtue.

4. Direct action is unnecessary where people have freedom of speech.
In a society dominated by an increasingly narrowly focused corporate media, it can be almost impossible to initiate a public dialogue on a subject unless something occurs that brings attention to it. Under such conditions, direct action can be a means of nurturing free speech, not squelching it. Likewise, when people who would otherwise oppose an injustice have accepted that it is inevitable, it is not enough simply to talk about it: one must demonstrate that it is possible to do something about it.

5. Direct action is alienating.
On the contrary, many people who find traditional party politics alienating are inspired and motivated by direct action. Different people find different approaches fulfilling; a movement that is to be broad-based must include a wide range of options. Sometimes people who share the goals of those who practice direct action while objecting to their means spend all their energy decrying an action that has been carried out. In doing so, they snatch defeat from the jaws of victory: they would do better to seize the opportunity to focus all attention on the issues raised by the action.

6. People who practice direct action should work through the established political channels instead.
Many people who practice direct action also work within the system. A commitment to making use of every institutional means of solving problems does not necessarily preclude an equal commitment to picking up where such means leave off.

7. Direct action is exclusive.
Some forms of direct action are not open to all, but this does not necessarily mean they are without worth. Everyone has different preferences and capabilities, and should be free to act according to them. The important question is how the differing approaches of individuals and groups that share the same long-term goals can be integrated in such a way that they complement each other.

8. Direct action is cowardly.
This accusation is almost always made by those who have the privilege of speaking and acting in public without fearing repercussions: that is to say, those who have power in this society, and those who obediently accept their power. Should the heroes of the French Resistance have demonstrated their courage and accountability by acting against the Nazi occupying army in the full light of day, thus dooming themselves to defeat? For that matter, in a nation increasingly terrorized by police and federal surveillance of just about everyone, is it any wonder that those who express dissent might want to protect their privacy while doing so?

9. Direct action is practiced only by college students/privileged rich kids/ desperate poor people/etc.
This allegation is almost always made without reference to concrete facts, as a smear. In fact, direct action is and long has been practiced in a variety of forms by people of all walks of life. The only possible exception to this would be members of the wealthiest and most powerful classes, who who have no need to practice any kind of illegal or controversial action because, as if by coincidence, the established political channels are perfectly suited to their needs.

10. Direct action is the work of agents provocateurs.
This is another speculation generally made from a distance, without concrete evidence. To allege that direct action is always the work of police agent provocateurs is disempowering: it rules out the possibility that activists could do such things themselves, overestimating the powers of police intelligence and reinforcing the illusion that the State is omnipotent. Likewise, it preemptively dismisses the value and reality of a diversity of tactics. When people feel entitled to make unfounded claims that every tactic of which they disapprove is a police provocation, this obstructs the very possibility of constructive dialogue about appropriate tactics.

11. Direct action is dangerous and can have negative repercussions for others.
Direct action can be dangerous in a repressive political climate, and it is important that those who practice it make every effort not to endanger others. This is not necessarily an objection to it, however--on the contrary, when it becomes dangerous to act outside established political channels, it becomes all the more important to do so. Authorities may use direct actions as excuses to terrorize innocents, as Hitler did when the Reichstag was set afire, but those in power are the ones who must answer for the injustices they commit in so doing, not those who oppose them. Likewise, though people who practice direct action may indeed run risks, in the face of an insufferable injustice it can be more dangerous and irresponsible to leave it uncontested.

12. Direct action never accomplishes anything.
Every effective political movement throughout history, has made use of some form of direct action. Direct action can complement other forms of political activity in a variety of ways. If nothing else, it highlights the necessity for institutional reforms, giving those who push for them more bargaining chips; but it can go beyond this supporting role to suggest the possibility of an entirely different organization of human life, in which power is distributed equally and all people have an equal and direct say in all matters that affect them.

You believe in violence, well we do too.

Moral Primitivism Anyone? A Satirical Examination of an Apologia for Industrialized Torture

by Jason Miller

"Again, if PETA is putting something out, I will always have my doubts - they see things one way and one way only. Theirs. In many ways the activists in this country are terrorists of a kind…." [Excerpt from an email written by a heavily indoctrinated and reactionary US American]

For a year now I have been an ethical vegetarian. Last Thanksgiving, I made what I thought was an enlightened moral decision to stop eating meat and to severely restrict my egg and dairy consumption. However, an email recently hit my inbox that presents such a powerful argument justifying the wanton torture and slaughter of animals (so we can please our palates) that my moral sensibilities and capacity to reason have been utterly disarmed. Signed with a cryptic "JC," this missive pummeled me with points I had not even considered when I made what I now rightly view as my ridiculous decision to go "meatless."

In fact, rarely a day goes by that I don't catch scent of the pungent aroma of the famous Kansas City barbeque I still crave—one can barely travel a mile or two in KC without finding oneself in olfactory range of restaurants that prepare extraordinarily delicious servings of non-human animal flesh.

Moral Primitivism Anyone? (continued)

I fully admit that I miss devouring tender, succulent sauce-drenched ribs, burnt ends, sliced beef, brisket….As I write this, I'm salivating like one of Pavlov's dogs tethered to the Cathedral Tower in Limerick on a Sunday morning….

What an extraordinary dilemma JC has created for me. At times I am still consumed by an almost overwhelming temptation to indulge myself in the consumption of one of my fellow animals. Feasting on sentient beings that had endured tortured, miserable existences (existences that were mere warm-ups for the sheer savagery that awaited them in the slaughterhouse) was one of my favorite pastimes.

So the question is, do I continue denying myself the sublime pleasure of dining on animal tissue in order to appease my conscience, or do I embrace JC's brilliant justification of meat consumption and satiate my hunger with a thick rare burger drowned in Heinz?

Allow me to examine and dissect some of JC's eloquent and illuminating conclusions:

JC: "I can't be held responsible for how turkeys or any animals are slaughtered. I'm never going to give up meat or fish or fowl, as our diet does require us to have protein and other nutrients that we receive from these products and I and many others enjoy eating them."

So forget the notion of the banality of evil. As a consumer, even if I eat meat I am absolved of ALL responsibility for the unimaginable horrors the producers inflict upon factory-farmed animals from "cradle to grave."

For Christ's sake! I've been subsisting for over a year without said "protein and other nutrients" from meat! I am a miracle of modern science!

And I find it nearly impossible to disagree with JC's statement that "I and many others enjoy eating them." (The "them" being animals of course— I would be lying if I said I didn't enjoy eating meat). As I was growing up my mother frequently confronted me with the question, "If everyone else jumped off a bridge would you do it too?" Obviously the "correct" response was "no." Sorry, Mom, but JC's lemming logic is a hell of a lot more enticing than going against the grain and "doing the right thing." Screw that—I'll have the porterhouse, please!

JC: "People have to eat and the bulk of their protein comes from animal sources. They have been doing it since the cave man and it isn't going to stop anytime soon. Tofu just doesn't cut it for most people as a meat substitute, nor those grotesque meat imitations made from veggie products and then shaped into meat like looking products."

Now that is a truly impenetrable Maginot Line of reasoning. I can't begin to argue with the assertion that people have to eat. And the bulk of my protein did indeed come from animal sources for about 39 years of my life. JC is a tough nut to crack! And to think I've actually been eating tofu and "those grotesque meat imitations made from veggie products and then shaped into meat like looking products." I cannot imagine what I've been thinking. Hunks of blood-saturated animal flesh, fat, and muscle that at some point in the production process were commingled with various organs, hooves, fur, and shit–forget those "grotesque meat imitations." I can really wrap my appetite around mutilated and raw animal parts that quickly rot if they aren't refrigerated.

Sorry Bossy, Wilbur and feathered friends. Since we human animals don't find "meat like looking products" to be delectable, we're going to continue confining you in dark, cramped quarters throughout your rueful lives, pumping you full of a toxic stew of antibiotics and growth hormones, causing you to grow so rapidly that you become crippled, performing surgery on you with no anesthetic, ripping out your teeth and clipping off your beaks so that when you go insane from the conditions we keep you under you can attack your fellow victims without damaging our product, loading you into severely over-crowded trucks in which you will do without food or water for several days, and ultimately hanging you by your hind legs, slitting your throats, crushing your skulls, and boiling you to death.

Besides, consuming animal flesh worked well for Neanderthals and a mere 50,000 years have passed. Don't rush us into making changes.

JC: "All the people that chose to eat vegetarian style to attempt to make a statement, can do so, but their numbers will never increase enough to make a difference in the amount of animals that are slaughtered. Its supply and demand and it appears that the demand is still there. I think a more riveting point in considering limiting human consumption of some of these products is to be more careful about the meat/fowl/fish one eats is because of all the contamination w/ e.coli, salmonella & mercury. That to me, is the real concern."

She's right. Every last one of us who "eat vegetarian style" just wants "to make a statement." It has NOTHING to do with ethics, moral or conscience. We're just showing off, carving out a niche and making a name for ourselves. And there are so damn few of us that the immutable laws of capitalism (which all good libertarians from Texas KNOW were handed down to Moses along with the Ten Commandments) will inevitably prevail. It is God's will that we adhere to the law of supply and demand as the chief guiding principle of humanity. So when JC so astutely observes, "it appears the demand is still there," who are we humble herbivores to argue?

And what self-respecting speciesist inflated with the hubris of humanity's inherent right to subjugate and exploit "lesser" beings wouldn't agree with this gem from JC?

"I think a more riveting point in considering limiting human consumption of some of these products is to be more careful about the meat/fowl/fish one eats is because of all the contamination w/ e.coli, salmonella & mercury. That to me, is the real concern."

Fuck the non-human animals. Humans are the REAL concern. Why didn't I think of that before I wasted 12 months of prime meat-eating time? Keep brutalizing the cows, pigs and chickens. Just take care not to get sick when you eat them.

JC: "This is not one plight that I'm going to worry about - especially since it is an American tradition. If people want to eat plain lasagne for T-day or just a green bean casserole for any holiday they can certainly do so, but it isn't something that I would personally choose to do.

Inflicting unconscionable pain and abuse upon non-human animals so that we can eat them is an "American tradition." JC is right! And you don't fuck with traditions, especially American ones. Like bombing smaller countries into the Stone Age. Manifest destinying our way across the North American continent. Installing and supporting ruthless dictators who adhere to the Washington Consensus. Wielding our economic power like a cudgel to beat sovereign nations into submission. Lynching. Jim Crow. Slavery. Native American genocide. Just to name a few.

And I have to admit that there is something fundamentally flawed with anyone who would "want to eat plain lasagna for T-day or just a green bean casserole for any holiday." That is just plain un-American. Let's start carving that bird!

JC: "Again, if PETA is putting something out, I will always have my doubts - they see things one way and one way only. Theirs. In many ways the activists in this country are terrorists of a kind. They think they are more civilized in their behavior but they try to terrorize people "by educating them" to the extreme conditions some animals face and are unable to be reasoned with at all. Its their way or the highway."

"If PETA is putting something out, I will always have my doubts - they see things one way and one way only." Amen to that, JC. Simply examine

Moral Primitivism Anyone? (continued)

their name. Can you imagine a more arrogant, rigid group than the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals? Thanks to JC's email, I too am beginning to harbor many doubts about them. Where the hell do Ingrid Newkirk and her band of "terrorists of a kind" get off thinking they are "more civilized in their behavior?" As human beings, don't we have the God-given right of dominion, which would mean we can abuse animals whenever we damn well please? And PETA members, don't you dare terrorize us with your knowledge. The reality is that we enjoy eating the flesh of dead animals and the more ignorant of their pain we remain, the better. So PETA, you can take OUR way or the highway. I think you know where the meat-eating population wants you to shove your ethics. We're broiling pork chops tonight!

So for a year now I have engaged in this rotten behavior known as vegetarianism. I have been depriving my body of protein, have been eating "grotesque" meat substitutes for no reason, have been violating sacred American traditions, have been "making a statement," have been engaging in a form of elitism, and have been a "terrorist of a kind." Somebody stop this bus! I want off!

Mea culpa!

And just how many pounds of meat must I consume before I am once again practicing the "American Way of Life" and reveling in its "non-negotiable" splendor?

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Los Angeles Daily News Interview with Press Officer Lindy Greene

Patrick Range McDonald, reporter for the LA Weekly Magazine, asked Lindy Greene for an interview regarding the Stop The Killing campaign which focuses on the senseless killing in six Los Angeles municipal shelters. The article he subsequently published omitted virtually all of the pertinent information she provided and, instead, misquoted or quoted her out of context while claiming that activists were "terrorizing" and "making death threats" against Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. If you have already read (or have access to) his report and compare it to the essay (see below) she sent to him, you will clearly observe his flagrant journalistic misconduct.

Interview with Patrick Range McDonald, Reporter for LA Weekly Magazine

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) is an above-ground, legal entity that receives, releases to the media, and clarifies the anonymous communiqués it receives from underground activists who carry out illegal direct action in defence of abused and exploited nonhuman animals. The Press Officers do not participate in underground activities and do not know the identities of those who do. Neither can they (or any other above-ground activists) predict or control when, where, how, whom, or whether the underground will strike. Since we cannot communicate directly with the underground, the Press Officers do our best to construct a reasonable evaluation of why an action was taken - by speaking from the heart and drawing on perspectives gleaned from long-term commitment to the animal rights movement. I like to put it that we speak for those who cannot - and for those who dare not.

The Press Office is unable to guarantee in the strictest sense of the word the veracity of the details in the communiqués it receives; however, decades of effective underground actions reveal that animal liberationists are not inclined to fabrications that would obviously discredit their Endeavors. The possibility of an agent- provocateur or an actual animal abuser submitting a false report always exists, but such ruse would be quickly exposed. It is the authorities, themselves, who have lied in order to make the underground look inept. Most notably, government agents in both the United States and England have claimed that actions were carried out at the wrong address. While any human beings are capable of making mistakes, the underground would likely be very confident of the locations it intended to strike.

The Stop the Killing educational campaign against Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) has been engaged in constitutionally-protected pickets for about three years. It obeys all local, state, and national laws governing demonstrations and seeks redress of grievances through totally legal channels. It focuses on the six Los Angeles municipal shelters currently overseen by General Manager Ed Boks. He was fired and asked to resign from the same positions in New York City and Maricopa County (AZ), respectively, for the identical complaints now levied against him in Los Angeles. These consist of allegedly "cooking the books," lying, and employing disingenuous means to appear to be lowering the kill rate. The latter is reputed to consist of manipulating figures by factoring out certain categories and allowing animals to linger until they die "on their own" from willfully untreated injuries and illnesses. Boks reportedly omits from the "euth" stats neonates, ferals, owner-surrenders, supposed "unsociables," and animals who die in-house. If the true kill rate is the percentage derived from the fraction whose denominator is the total number of animals impounded and whose numerator is the total number of animals dying (for any reason), my guess is that it would fall somewhere between 60 and 80 per cent. Ed Boks also refuses to implement the protocols, policies, procedures, and programs of NoKill Solutions proven to be saving lives at progressive shelters nationwide.

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) is an underground group that removes animals directly from the clutches of - or inflicts economic sabotage on - their abusers. Liberations are difficult today, because of tightened and more sophisticated security - so the emphasis seems to be more on property damage. The motive for the former is self-explanatory, while that for the latter rests on the premise that money and material possessions are all that matter in the absence of conscience and compassion. The ALF adheres to a very strict guideline that no life - human or animal - be harmed during an action. Other groups - such as the Animal Rights Militia, Justice Department, and Revolutionary Cells - do not rule out violence against abusers as a morally justified tactic, although to date such has not (to my knowledge) been employed. In every social justice cause, there has been that element willing to "ratchet it up a notch" - and it is doubtful that movement objectives would have been achieved without it.

Property damage strives to completely shutter animal-abusing businesses or at least disable them to the point where recovery is extremely cumbersome and time-consuming. It consists usually of destroying equipment and data. Where individuals are concerned, cosmetic or mechanical insults to homes and vehicles "encourage" targets to pursue more ethical vocational endeavors. "Secondary" or "tertiary" targeting is a brilliant and effective strategy that goes after satellite businesses and clients servicing, supplying, and patronizing offensive central companies. The theory is that it's nearly impossible to conduct commerce when no one will underwrite an organization's insurance, do its banking, trade its stock, or even provide it with toilet paper. This is the situation for Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a product-testing lab that poisons to death 500 animals a day and is the object of an ongoing international campaign across twenty-two countries. When aimed at family members and other associates of a disfavored individual, the logistic may seem to be "unfair" on the surface. But activists assign a certain degree of moral culpability to these indirect "accomplices" who enable the abusers by failing to hold them accountable for their atrocities against animals - and the intent of the underground actions is ostensibly to "persuade" them to exert pressure for reform on the perpetrators.

My speculation is that this last would be the reason behind the strikes

Lindy Greene Interview (cont.)

against Deborah Villar (sister of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa) and Maria Teresa Blackman (ex-wife of Jimmy Blackman, mayoral Deputy Chief of Staff). They both are in a position to influence two men who have the power to make drastic beneficial changes for the innocent animals who are caught in the crosshairs between a pair of politicians whose continued dereliction of duty is costing tens of thousands of lives each year. The mayor refuses to fire the inept and uncaring Ed Boks and replace him with someone competent and dedicated. In fact, back in October 2005, the mayor and Jimmy Blackman promised the humane community that they were going to get the shelters on track by hiring Nathan Winograd (NoKill Solutions) as a consultant. But they reneged on that pledge.

And there may be people in the above-ground who disagree with some of the underground's targets, but they respect and support its choices. The few who have been caught reveal that those who elect to carry out illegal direct action are mature, bright, methodical individuals who just want the same thing the above-ground wants - for the killing to stop. And the way to get it to stop in the shelters is to implement the tenets of Nathan Winograd's No-Kill Equation.

I do not consider the statement in the communiqué about "bumping" Mayor Villaraigosa a threat. Legally, a threat must comprise three elements: action, agent, and an imminent time frame. In other words, it must delineate what's going to happen, who's going to do it, and when it will occur. Every one of us, including you and me, has expressed - upon hearing of some heinous offense - the wish that the same would befall the perpetrator. It is not a threat or an advocation, but simply an expression of moral outrage.

The UCLA Primate Freedom Project is a campaign against primate experimentation at the University of California at Los Angeles. The university squanders multiple millions of dollars studying methamphetamine addiction in monkeys. Substance abuse is an arena of inquiry that should lend itself admirably to clinical studies in which an investigation into the psychodynamic and socioeconomic parameters that contribute to a uniquely human problem would constitute a much more ethical and productive course than making "tweakers" of members of a species with no native inclination toward self-intoxication and no ability to communicate their experiences. UCLA also purports to "simulate" strabismus - commonly referred to as "lazy" or "crossed" eye - by injecting the paralytic drug Botox into the ocular musculature of restrained primates, when a simple and successful operation has already been known and practiced for at least six decades.

Underground activity is driven by pervasive animal abuse and is also a response to individuals and officials who consistently "thumb their noses" at above-ground activists and humane advocates. It also seems to escalate in the presence of law enforcement harassment of and interference in the free exercise of First-Amendment rights. I personally have been cited and arrested for doing nothing more than peacefully protesting. I have also been raided twice by the FBI, who searched my apartment and confiscated two computers. I surmise that I was targeted because the authorities may see me as somewhat more "prominent" or "visible" - since I am a Press Officer, rather outspoken, and wont to use the bullhorn at demonstrations.

No one expects or demands perfection - but if LAAS would make a sincere, honest, and diligent effort to save animals' lives by hiring Nathan Winograd of NoKill Solutions to consult, it would doubtless find that the above-ground would take a hiatus and the humane community would rally behind it with support and assistance. Common sense would dictate that the underground would probably back off, as well. If all the killing and law enforcement attempts to quash civil liberties continue, I can only conjecture that both above-ground and underground campaigns will press onward - and possibly increase in frequency.

Lindy Greene
NAALPO Press Officer

Book Review: Charles Patterson's The Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust

New York: Lantern Books, 2002, 280 pp.
Reviewed by Dr. Steven Best
Associate Professor, Departments of Humanities and Philosophy
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"True human goodness, in all its purity and freedom, can come to the fore only when its recipient has no power. Humanity's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals. And in this respect humankind has suffered a fundamental debacle, a debacle so fundamental that all others stem from it." **Milan Kundera,** *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

Since the nineteenth century, geographers have developed theories of "environmental determinism" that reject the humanist interpretation of history as constituted solely through human-to-human interactions. By contrast, they emphasized that environmental factors such as physical terrain and climate determined psychological outlooks and temperaments, cultural characteristics, social organization, and historical change. Once introduced into historiography as a crucial perspective mediated with other perspectives such as economics, class, technology, and culture in a non-reductionist manner that does not ignore the influence of social factors and the ability of humans to shape their environments as well, "environmental determinism" (read: "conditioning") greatly bolsters our abilities to understand biological evolution, social development, and human behavior.

While a welcome advance over the anthropocentric conceit that only humans shape human actions, the environmental determinism approach typically fails to emphasize the crucial role that *animals* play in human history, as well as how the human *exploitation of animals* is a key cause of hierarchy, social conflict, and environmental breakdown. A core thesis of what I call "animal standpoint theory" is that animals have been *key driving and shaping forces of human thought, psychology, moral and social life, and history* overall. More specifically, animal standpoint theory argues that *the oppression of human over human has deep roots in the oppression of human over animal*.

In this context, Charles Patterson's recent book, *The Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust*, articulates the animal standpoint in a powerful form with revolutionary implications. The main argument of *Eternal Treblinka* is that the human domination of animals, such as it emerged some ten thousand years ago with the rise of agricultural society, was the first hierarchical domination and laid the groundwork for patriarchy, slavery, warfare, genocide, and other systems of violence and power. A key implication of Patterson's theory is that human liberation is implausible if disconnected from animal liberation, and thus humanism -- a *speciesist* philosophy that constructs a hierarchal relationship privileging superior humans over inferior animals and reduces animals to resources for human use -- collapses under the weight of its logical contradictions.

Patterson lays out his complex holistic argument in three parts. In Part I, he demonstrates that animal exploitation and speciesism have direct and profound connections to slavery, colonialism, racism, and anti-Semitism. In Part II, he shows how these connections exist not only in the realm of ideology – as conceptual systems of justifying and underpinning domination and hierarchy – but also in systems of technology, such that the tools and techniques humans devised for the rationalized mass confinement and slaughter of animals were mobilized against human groups for the same ends. Finally, in the fascinating interviews and narratives of Part III, Patterson describes how personal experience with German Nazism prompted Jewish to take antithetical paths: whereas most retreated to an insular identity and dogmatic emphasis on the singularity of Nazi evil and its tragic experience, others recognized the profound similarities between how Nazis treated their human captives and how humanity as a whole treats other animals, an epiphany that led them to

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

adopt vegetarianism, to become advocates for the animals, and develop a far broader and more inclusive ethic informed by universal compassion for all suffering and oppressed beings.

The Origins of Hierarchy

"As long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other" –Pythagoras

It is little understood that the first form of oppression, domination, and hierarchy involves human *domination over animals*. Patterson's thesis stands in bold contrast to the Marxist theory that the *domination over nature* is fundamental to the domination over other humans. It differs as well from the social ecology position of Murray Bookchin that *domination over humans* brings about alienation from the natural world, provokes hierarchical mindsets and institutions, and is the root of the long-standing western goal to "dominate" nature. In the case of Marxists, anarchists, and so many others, theorists typically don't even mention human domination of animals, let alone assign it causal primacy or significance. In Patterson's model, however, the human subjugation of animals is the first form of hierarchy and it paves the way for all other systems of domination such as include patriarchy, racism, colonialism, anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust. As he puts it, "the exploitation of animals was the model and inspiration for the atrocities people committed against each other, slavery and the Holocaust being but two of the more dramatic examples."

Hierarchy emerged with the rise of agricultural society some ten thousand years ago. In the shift from nomadic hunting and gathering bands to settled agricultural practices, humans began to establish their dominance over animals through "domestication." In animal domestication (often a euphemism disguising coercion and cruelty), humans began to exploit animals for purposes such as obtaining food, milk, clothing, plowing, and transportation. As they gained increasing control over the lives and labor power of animals, humans bred them for desired traits and controlled them in various ways, such as castrating males to make them more docile. To conquer, enslave, and claim animals as their own property, humans developed numerous technologies, such as pens, cages, collars, ropes, chains, and branding irons.

The domination of animals paved the way for the domination of humans. The sexual subjugation of women, Patterson suggests, was modeled after the domestication of animals, such that men began to control women's reproductive capacity, to enforce repressive sexual norms, and to rape them as they forced breeding in their animals. Not coincidentally, Patterson argues, slavery emerged in the same region of the Middle East that spawned agriculture, and, in fact, developed as an extension of animal domestication practices. In areas like Sumer, slaves were managed like livestock, and males were castrated and forced to work along with females.

In the fifteenth century, when Europeans began the colonization of Africa and Spain introduced the first international slave markets, the metaphors, models, and technologies used to exploit animal slaves were applied with equal cruelty and force to human slaves. Stealing Africans from their native environment and homeland, breaking up families who scream in anguish, wrapping chains around slaves' bodies, shipping them in cramped quarters across continents for weeks or months with no regard for their needs or suffering, branding their skin with a hot iron to mark them as property, auctioning them as servants, breeding them for service and labor, exploiting them for profit, beating them in rages of hatred and anger, and killing them in vast numbers – all these horrors and countless others inflicted on black slaves were developed and perfected centuries earlier through animal exploitation.

As the domestication of animals developed in agricultural society, humans lost the intimate connections they once had with animals. By the time of Aristotle, certainly, and with the bigoted assistance of medieval theologians such as St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, western humanity had developed an explicitly hierarchical worldview – that came to be known as the "Great Chain of Being" – used to position humans as the end to which all other beings were mere means.

Patterson underscores the crucial point that the domination of human over human and its exercise through slavery, warfare, and genocide typically begins with the denigration of victims. But the means and methods of dehumanization are derivative, for *speciesism provided the conceptual paradigm that encouraged, sustained, and justified western brutality toward other peoples*. "Throughout the history of our ascent to dominance as the master species," Patterson writes, "our victimization of animals has served as the model and foundation for our victimization of each other. The study of human history reveals the pattern: first, humans exploit and slaughter animals; then, they treat other people like animals and do the same to them." Whether the conquerors are European imperialists, American colonialists, or German Nazis, western aggressors engaged in *wordplay before swordplay*, vilifying their victims – Africans, Native Americans, Filipinos, Japanese, Vietnamese, Iraqis, and other unfortunates – with opprobrious terms such as "rats," "pigs," "swine," "monkeys," "beasts," and "filthy animals."

Once perceived as brute beasts or sub-humans occupying a lower evolutionary rung than white westerners, subjugated peoples were treated accordingly; once characterized as animals, they could be hunted down like animals. The first exiles from the moral community, animals provided a convenient discard bin for oppressors to dispose the oppressed. The connections are clear: "For a civilization built on the exploitation and slaughter of animals, the `lower' and more degraded the human victims are, the easier it is to kill them." Thus, colonialism, as Patterson describes, was a "natural extension of human supremacy over the animal kingdom." For just as humans had subdued animals with their superior intelligence and technologies, so many Europeans believed that the white race had proven its superiority by bringing the "lower races" under its command.

There are important parallels between speciesism and sexism and racism in the elevation of white male rationality to the touchstone of moral worth. The arguments European colonialists used to legitimate exploiting Africans – that they were less than human and inferior to white Europeans in ability to reason – are the very same justifications humans use to trap, hunt, confine, and kill animals. Once western norms of rationality were defined as the essence of humanity and social normality, by first using non-human animals as the measure of alterity, it was a short step to begin viewing odd, different, exotic, and eccentric peoples and types as non- or sub-human. Thus, the same criterion created to exclude animals from humans was also used to ostracize blacks, women, and numerous other groups from "humanity." The oppression of blacks, women, and animals alike was grounded in an argument that biological inferiority predestined them for servitude. In the major strain of western thought, alleged rational beings (i.e., elite, white, western males) pronounce that the Other (i.e., women, people of color, animals) is deficient in rationality in ways crucial to their nature and status, and therefore are deemed and treated as inferior, subhuman, or nonhuman. Whereas the racist mindset creates a hierarchy of superior/inferior on the basis of skin color, and the sexist mentality splits men and women into greater and lower classes of beings, the speciesist outlook demeans and objectifies animals by dichotomizing the biological continuum into the antipodes of humans and animals. As racism stems from a hateful white supremacism, and sexism is the product of a bigoted male supremacism, so speciesism stems from and informs a violent *human supremacism* -- namely, the arrogant belief that humans have a natural or God-given right to use animals for any purpose they devise or, more generously, within the moral boundaries of welfarism and stewardship, which however was Judaic moral baggage official Chistianithy left behind.

By the nineteenth century, exploiting a corrupt understanding of Darwin's natural selection theory, Social Darwinists promoted the pernicious ideology of "Might is Right" in order to frame class domination as something natural and inevitable rather than contingent and subject to change. A variant of Social Darwinism was used by Hitler and German Nazis to justify their genocidal campaigns'. Ultimately derived from speciesism, the Might is Right view continues to prop up human barbarity

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

toward animals, and it has sedimented into a bland, unreflective "common sense" consent to human supremacism and the ongoing pogrom against animals.

Animal Breeding and Eugenics

"Human rule over the lower creatures provided the mental analogue in which many political and social arrangements were based." Keith Thomas

After analyzing how the domination of animals provides the conceptual model for the domination of humans, Patterson turns, in Part II, to the task of identifying the linkages between animal breeding and eugenics measures such as sterilization, euthanasia killings. Still more provocatively, he unearths the hidden connections between the industrialized killing of animals in early twentieth century slaughterhouses and the bureaucratic and technological machinery used by the German Nazis during the Holocaust.

Some readers may be surprised to learn the full extent to which the US (most notably, the "educated" and "liberal" elite as well as the mainstream press) was poisoned by racist ideologies throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Certainly, a virulent racism initiated, perpetuated, and legitimated slavery and the genocidal war against the Native American nations, but racism also shaped the thinking of scientists and elites in a way that decisively influenced the thinking and policies of Hitler and German Nazism.

By the early nineteenth century, Patterson notes, western "sciences" often were little more than crude justifications for racism, colonialism, and Eurocentrism, as the facts of human nature were distorted to construct a hierarchy that extended from white Europeans at the top to dark-skinned peoples at the bottom. Appallingly, major scientists of the day, such as Charles Lyell and Georges Cuvier, trafficked in racist crudities. Cuvier, for instance, described Africans as "the most degraded of human races, whose form approaches that of the beast." Ernst Haeckel, the esteemed German philosopher and biologist who coined the term "ecology," averred that non-western races are "psychologically nearer to the mammals (apes and dogs) than to civilized Europeans." With chilling implications, Haeckel concluded, "we must, therefore, assign a totally different value to their lives." Paul Broca, a French pathologist and anthropologist, spawned the popular pseudo-science of "craniometry" which (mis)measured human skulls to support the thesis that brain size was related to intelligence; in a paradigmatic example of how politics and ideology can derail, betray, and literally deform the scientific enterprise, Broca and others employed crude and arbitrary methods to "prove" the presumption that white Europeans had the largest skull size, and so clearly were the highest specimens of humanity.

More insidiously still, eugenics became hugely influential in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, especially in the US and Germany. The attempt to manipulate and "improve" the human gene stock originated in early agricultural society through attempts to breed the largest and strongest animals. The Nazi vilification of huge swaths of human society, including blacks, Jews, and those deemed intellectually and physically "unfit" or "inferior," was dependent upon dehumanization by identifying them with animals. Eugenics had real consequences in the US, for by the 1920s tens of thousands of people had been sterilized. These campaigns were a direct and formidable influence on German Nazism. Hitler studied US policies and ultimately was inspired to surpass the pioneering lead of the US by pushing eugenics to its ultimate conclusions -- to the "final solution" realized in the massacre of millions of undesirables Hitler likened to animals, insects, and even bacteria.

A Tale of Two Holocausts

"*We have been at war with the other creatures of this earth ever since the first human hunter set forth with spear into the primeval forest. Human imperialism has everywhere enslaved, oppressed, murdered, and mutilated the animal peoples. All around us lie the slave camps we have built for our fellow creatures, factory farms and vivisection laboratories, Dachaus and Buchenwalds for the conquered species. We slaughter animals for our food, force them to perform silly tricks for our delectation, gun them down and stick hooks in them in the name of sport. We have torn up the wild places where once they made their homes. Speciesism is more deeply entrenched within us even than sexism, and that is deep enough."* Ronnie Lee, founder of the Animal Liberation Front

Patterson argues that the US roots of German Nazism grew not only through the widespread influence of eugenics, but also through the industrialized slaughter of animals. Both ideologically (racism and eugenics) and technologically (mass production/destruction models), Nazis took their inspiration from the US, such that "the road to Auschwitz traveled through America" and ultimately "begins at the slaughterhouse."

More than anyone else in the US, automobile mogul Henry Ford helped paved the way to Auschwitz and Dachau. Ford was a rabid anti-Semite who began in 1920 to publish screeds against the Jews through his weekly newspaper. Ford organized his columns as a book and *The International Jew* sold a half-million copies in the US and Europe and "became the bible of the postwar anti-Semitic movement." Hitler extolled Ford's book and disseminated it widely among officers and troops. Hitler regarded Ford as a pioneer, visionary, and comrade, declaring that "I regard Henry Ford as my inspiration" – so much so that he even kept a life-size portrait of Ford in his office. Ford proudly received the honors bestowed on him, and a Ford subsidiary company was a major supplier of vehicles for the German army.

In addition to his virulent anti-Semitism, Ford helped to incubate German Nazism in another key way through the development of industrial technology methods. The same techniques that Ford pioneered for the mass production of automobiles were used by Nazis for the administration of mass killing. A crucial but little-known fact, however, is that these techniques were *first developed in the slaughterhouses* for the kind of streamlined killing and disassembly of animal bodies such as were required to satisfy growing consumer demand for meat. In 1865, amidst the colossal stockyards of Chicago, meatpackers introduced the conveyor belt to increase the speed and efficiency of the killing. Slaughterhouses pioneered the division of labor techniques – whereby a grisly team of "knockers," "splitters," "boners," and "trimmers" specialized in different tasks --used for all subsequent forms of mass production.

Ford's visit to a Chicago slaughterhouse inspired his adaptation of assembly line and division of labor techniques to churn out an endless procession of identical automobiles. But the technological grafting did not end there. "As the twentieth century would demonstrate," Patterson observes, "it was but one step from the industrialized killing of American slaughterhouses to Nazi Germany's assembly-line mass murder." Thus, historians should look not to Henry Ford as the innovator of mass production, but rather to meatpacking giants Gustavus Swift and Philip Armour.

To facilitate their brutal butchery, Nazis aimed to make killing people seem like slaughtering animals. The "Might is Right" ideology that humans employ to justify their brutality against animals was central to Nazi ideology, for, as Hitler stated: "Man owes everything that is of importance of the principle of struggle and to one race [Aryan race] which has carried itself forward successfully. Take away the Nordic Germans and nothing remains but the dance of apes." Hitler's basic outlook was that nature is ruled by the law of struggle, and he summarized his worldview in this way: "He who does not possess power loses the right to life."

In the rationalized production systems of Chicago and Auschwitz, the goal is speed, efficiency, and maximized killing, and the process unfolds through a division of labor with workers specializing in different tasks. Similarly, from transportation to gassing, by way of a gigantic social production line, Nazis tried to keep the movement of prisoners constant, such that as quickly and smoothly as possible one group followed another to their doom. As with slaughterhouses, the sick and lame were cleared away. Both animals and humans were crammed together and transported

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

in mass in rail cars to their final destination. The Nazis shipped Jews to their death in cattle cars, they temporarily unloaded them in slaughterhouses where they were confined in animal pens, and then dispatched them to their death through the same rail lines paths used to transport and slaughter animals.

Lessons Learned, Lessons Lost

"At the moment our human world is based on the suffering and destruction of millions of non-humans. To perceive this and to do something to change it in personal and public ways is to undergo a change of perception akin to a religious conversion. Nothing can ever be seen in quite the same way again because once you have admitted the terror and pain of other species you will, unless you resist conversion, be always aware of the endless permutations of suffering that support our society." Arthur Conan Doyle

"The vast majority of Holocaust survivors are carnivores, no more concerned about animals' suffering than were the Germans concerned about Jews' suffering. What does it all mean? I will tell you. It means that we have learned nothing from the Holocaust." Arthur Kaplan

By this point in Patterson's narrative, many readers may be offended by the audacity of comparing the suffering of animals and human beings, but Patterson disarms this speciesist objection quite effectively in the third section of *Eternal Treblinka*. Here, often using original research and interviews, he discusses the experiences of numerous Holocaust survivors and Jewish people currently living in Germany and Austria, many of whom lost family members to Nazi terror. While many Jews scarred by the human Holocaust never made the connection to the animal Holocaust, and remained speciesists and carnivores, numerous Jewish activists, artists, and intellectuals did, as their experiences of Nazism and concentration camps gave them a greater empathy for all oppressed life and, logically, led them to vegetarianism. As beautifully stated by Edgar Kupfer-Koberwitz, a prisoner in Dachau (1940-1945), "I eat no animals because I don't want to live on the suffering and death of other creatures. I have suffered so much myself that I can feel other creatures' suffering by virtue of my own."

Through a series of compelling narratives, Patterson discusses the lives and moral epiphanies of many distinguished Jewish people who learned to connect the important dots, including Alex Hershaft, founder and president of the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM); Peter Singer, ethicist and author of *Animal Liberation*; and Henry Spira, noted animal rights activist. Another notable Jewish figure Patterson describes is Isaac Bashevis Singer, the 1978 Nobel Prize winner in Literature. Many of the characters in Singer's short stories and novels are vegetarians as well as proponents of a universal ethics of compassion that extends beyond human society to include animals. Singer denounces the hypocrisy of those who speak against bloodshed while themselves causing it in their daily food choices, and he spoke through his characters in poignant statements such as:

"You cannot be gentle while you're killing a creature, you cannot be for justice while you take a creature who is weaker than you and slaughter it, and torture it."

"People should live in such a way that they did not build their happiness on the misfortune of others."

"The man who eats meat ... upholds with every bite … that might is right."

Singer draws broad connections between the violence humans inflict on animals and the cruelties they heap upon one another, and criticized the "Might is Right" ideology as a fascist ideology at its core. "The smugness with which man could do with other species as he pleased," Singer writes, "exemplified the most extreme racist theories, the principle that might is right." For Singer, "There is only one little step from killing animals to creating gas chambers a la Hitler and concentration camps a la Stalin ... There will be no justice as long as man will stand with a knife or with a gun and destroy those who are weaker than he is." Singer insists that "what the Nazis had done to the Jews, man was doing to the animals." Most famously, in his short story, "The Letter Writer," Singer drew an apt analogy between the violence German Nazis used against human victims and the tyranny humans throughout the globe impose on animals: "What do they know -- all these scholars, all these philosophers, all the leaders of the world? They have convinced themselves that man, the worst transgressor of all the species, is the crown of creation. All other creatures were created merely to provide him with food, pelts, to be tormented, exterminated. In relation to them, all people are Nazis; for the animals it is an eternal Treblinka."

The ideology of speciesism – or human supremacism -- has buttressed systems of domination over animals for over ten thousand years. In his own astute grasp of the links in the gigantic chain of violence, Dachau survivor Koberwitz wrote, "I believe as long as man torture and kills animals, he will torture and kill humans as well---and wars will be waged—for killing must be practices and learned on a small scale." In addition to compelling characters such as Koberwitz, Patterson chronicles the life and thought of Dr. Helmut Kaplan. In a protest outside of a giant pharmaceutical firm in Frankfurt, Kaplan enjoined German citizens to recognize that in addition to the revisionist lie that concentration camps never existed, there is a *second lie* that death camps no longer exist, that society is civilized and no longer rooted in violence and barbarism. With Isaac Bashevis Singer, Kaplan argues that "Everything the Nazis did to Jews we are today practicing on animals," and that what is happening to them "is exactly analogous to the Holocaust of the Nazis." Just like the Holocaust, people do not want to know what is happening to animals and are in denial; the "*good Germans*" who went about their business while the smoke of cremated humans drifted through the air has its analogue in the "*good humans*" who feign moral goodness and compassion, but ultimately are prejudiced hypocrites whose food choices perpetuate the ongoing Holocaust against animals.

The "Holocaust on Your Plate" Controversy

"Auschwitz begins wherever someone looks at a slaughterhouse and thinks: they're only animals." Theodor Adorno

"As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be battlefields." Tolstoy

Aware of the deep continuities between the animal and human holocaust, and inspired by Patterson's book and the words of some progressive Jewish scholars, in February 2002, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) launched a new exhibit which was to travel to over 100 American and foreign cities. The "Holocaust on Your Plate" exhibit consisted of "eight 60-square-foot panels that juxtaposed photos of suffering and death in factory farms and slaughterhouses alongside parallel images of scenes of the horrors of Nazi concentration camps." Employing its usual method shock tactics to disrupt complacency and provoke thought, PETA hoped that the exhibit would "stimulate contemplation of how the victimization of Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and others characterized as 'life unworthy of life' during the Holocaust parallels the way that modern society abuses and justifies the slaughter of animals." According to PETA, the photos "graphically depicts the point that Singer made when he wrote, `In relation to [animals], all people are Nazis.'" Newkirk explained the rationale behind the exhibit in this way: "The `Holocaust on Your Plate' Campaign was designed to desensitize [people] to different forms of systematic degradation and exploitation, and [to show that] the logic and methods employed in factory farms and slaughterhouses are analogous to those used in concentration camps. We understand both systems to be based on a moral equation indicating that `might makes right' and premised on a concept of other cultures or other species as deficient and thus disposable. Each has it own unique mechanisms and purposes, but both result in immeasurable, unnecessary suffering for those who are innocent and unable to defend themselves."

The controversial exhibit offended many Jewish and non-Jewish people

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

with its graphic equation of factory farms and concentration camps. Chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, said that the exhibition, was "outrageous, offensive and takes chutzpah to new heights ... The effort by Peta to compare the deliberate systematic murder of millions of Jews to the issue of animal rights is abhorrent." Similarly, Stuart Bender, legal counsel for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, wrote an angry missive to PETA asking them to "cease and desist this reprehensible misuse of Holocaust materials."

Yet Patterson shows that it is by no means inappropriate to draw analogies between animal and human slavery or between the animal and human holocaust and that visceral reactions to such comparisons, while understandable on many levels, is morally myopic, exhibits the same type and structure of hierarchy and devaluation Nazis used against Jews, and failed to understand the larger meanings of the human Holocaust.

First, Patterson provides a powerful argument that the human holocaust *built on* the animal holocaust in significant ways, both ideologically and technologically, and thus there *are* important and relevant analogies to be made. In both cases, groups of beings are branded as inferior, separated from their families and homes, shipped and processed in rationalized bureaucratic ways, reduced to slave labor and often to experimental subjects of "science," and ultimately murdered and disposed when their existence was no longer useful or convenient. There *is* a significant parallel between animals and humans confined in cages or cells, sick and scrawny, crammed into trucks or railcars on the way to slaughter, forced to labor unto death, and killed in gas chamber rooms (or meeting *worse* fates in the case of animals, such as being sliced apart while still conscious).

Second, as demonstrated throughout the third section of Patterson's book, many Jewish people and Nazi victims themselves urge the importance of grasping the relationship between the animal and human holocaust, in both thought and practice, so why is it necessarily insensitive or anti-Semitic if non-Jewish people do the same. Here it is important to note that the PETA exhibit was inspired by Jewish writer, Charles Patterson; that it relied extensively on quotes by Jewish Holocaust victims and survivors; that it was funded by an anonymous Jewish philanthropist; and that it was put together by Matt Prescott, a PETA activist who lost several relatives in the Holocaust. The point of the exhibit was not to ignore obvious differences between the animals and humans, as well as between their respective holocausts, but rather to underscore the profound similarities. Here, in reference to the shared nature of oppressed animals and humans, the bottom line is that *pain is pain and suffering is suffering*, that all species live in psychological and physical torment stripped from their environment and families, when isolated and confined in small cages, when forced to labor until exhaustion or death, when experimented on, when living in fear and anxiety before finally being murdered.

This said, it is nonetheless crucial to understand the concerns of oppressed human groups when being compared to animals, not only because they often feel their experience is being exploited for the purposes of another group, however sincere or valid (and most critics did not feel the intentions of PETA were honorable or respectful), but also because a key cause of their oppression was being likened to animals in the first place. But the comparisons done by PETA, Patterson, and a host of Jewish writers and activists are hardly the same as those made by racists, anti-Semites, and Nazis, as PETA (as true of animal rights people in general) is not ideologically reactionary but rather wants to overcome all forms of hierarchy, domination, exploitation, bias, prejudice, and violence to develop a more, not less, comprehensive ethic and principle of equality (as based on sentience, not arbitrary, circular, and self-serving human appeals to human reason).

Moreover, the point of the exhibit – as true of Patterson's book – is not to reduce humans to animals, but rather to raise animals up into humans in the sense that they are accorded respect, granted their proper intrinsic value, and endowed with the rights relevant for them to lead lives based on freedom from pain and suffering and freedom to happiness and pleasure.

Finally, whether critics acknowledge it or not, there simply *are* commonalities among modes of oppression, they *do* co-constitute and reinforce one another, and these *need* to be analyzed as one holistic complex of hierarchy, domination, and oppression, one that, as argued all along, has important roots in the domination of animals. As Matt Prescott eloquently explains: "The very same mindset that made the Holocaust possible - that we can do anything we want to those we decide are 'different or inferior' - is what allows us to commit atrocities against animals every single day. ... The fact is, all animals feel pain, fear and loneliness. We're asking people to recognize that what Jews and others went through in the Holocaust is what animals go through every day in factory farms."

To give Dr. Martin Luther King a significantly broader reading that extends beyond the narrow limits of the human community to include all sentience life: "*No one can be free until all are free.*" There is a moral hypocrisy and speciesist double-standard informing heated attacks on PETA's attempts to draw parallels between animal and human suffering, one that desperately needs to be transcended in favor of a broader ethic. For while groups such as the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League ask PETA to be sensitive to human oppression, understanding that Blacks and Jews often accused PETA of barging into communities with their display and not appreciating how oppressed peoples might feel used or exploited to make moral arguments on behalf of animals. While these criticisms no doubt were valid in many cases, it must also be said that there were few attempts by oppressed people to make the effort from their side to try to *sympathize with and understand animal oppression*. While PETA may use images of Jewish and Black exploitation in ways they object to, it is more to the point to note that they eat animals in their private lives and groups functions, a considerable more grievous offense than a well-intended, possible misappropriation of images of suffering to expand the moral community. Indeed, the NAACP's shameless public defense of serial dog torturer and killer Michael Vick was despicable and displayed a grotesque lack of moral sympathy to non-human animals, not fundamentally different from the detachment (if not pleasure) white racists showed toward those Blacks victimized by their violence

Too many people with pretences to ethics, compassion, decency, justice, love, and other stellar values of humanity at its finest resist the profound analogies between animal and human slavery and animal and human holocausts, in order to devalue or trivialize animal suffering and avoid the responsibility of the weighty moral issues confronting them. The moral myopia of humanism is blatantly evident when people who have been victimized by violence and oppression decry the fact that they "were treated like animals" – *as if it is acceptable to brutalize animal, but not humans*.

If there is a salient disanalogy or discontinuity between the tyrannical pogroms launched against animals and humans, it lies not in the fallacious assumption that animals do not suffer physical and mental pain similar to humans, but rather that animals suffer *more* than humans, both quantitatively (the intensity of their torture, such as they endure in fur farms, factory farms, and experimental laboratories) and qualitatively (the number of those who suffer and die). And while few oppressed human groups lack moral backing, sometimes on an international scale, one finds not mass solidarity with animals but rather mass consumption of them. As another Nobel Prize writer in Literature, South African novelist writer J. M. Coetzee, forcefully stated: "Let me say it openly: we are surrounded by an enterprise of degradation, cruelty, and killing which rivals anything the Third Reich was capable of, indeed dwarfs it, in that ours is an enterprise without end, self-regenerating, bringing rabbits, rats, poultry, livestock ceaselessly into the world for the purpose of killing them."

Every year, throughout the world, over 45 billion farmed animals currently are killed for food consumption. This staggering number is nearly eight times the present human population. In the US alone, over 10 billion animals are killed each year for food consumption – *27 million each day, nearly 19,000 per minute*. Of the 10 billion land animals killed each year in the US, over 9 billion are chickens; *every day in the US, 23 million chickens are killed for human consumption, 269 per second*. In addition to

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

the billions of land animals consumed, humans also kill and consume 85 billion marine animals (17 billion in the US). Billions more animals die in the name of science, entertainment, sport, or fashion (i.e., the leather, fur, and wool industries), or on highways as victims of cars and trucks. Moreover, ever more animal species vanish from the earth as we enter the sixth great extinction crisis in the planet's history, this one caused by human not natural events, the last one occurring 65 million years ago with the demise of the dinosaurs and 90% of all species on the planet.

It is thus appropriate to recall the saying by English clergyman and writer, William Ralph Inge, to the effect that: "We have enslaved the rest of the animal creation, and have treated our distant cousins in fur and feathers so badly that beyond doubt, if they were able to formulate a religion, they would depict the Devil in human form."

Commonalities of Oppression

"Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to humankind." Albert Schweitzer

"The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men." Alice Walker

The construction of industrial stockyards, the total objectification of nonhuman animals, and the mechanized murder of innocent beings should have sounded a loud warning to humanity that such a process might one day be applied to them, as it was in Nazi Germany. If humans had not exploited animals, moreover, they might not have exploited humans, or, at the very least, they would not have had handy conceptual models and technologies for enforcing domination over others. "A better understanding of these connections," Patterson states, "should help make our planet a more humane and livable place for all of us – people and animals alike, A new awareness is essential for the survival of our endangered planet."

The most important objective of the book, indeed, is to promote a new ethics and mode of perception. *Eternal Treblinka* affects a radical shift in the way we understand oppression, domination, power, and hierarchy. It is both an effect of these changes, and, hopefully, a catalyst to deepen political resistance to corporate domination and hierarchy in all forms. Given its broad framing that highlights the crucial importance of human domination over animals for slavery, racism, colonialism, and anti-Semitism, *Eternal Treblinka* could and should revolutionize fields such as Holocaust studies, colonial and postcolonial studies, and African American studies. But this can happen only *if*, to be blunt, humanists, "radicals," and "progressives" in academia and society in general remove their speciesist blinders in order to grasp the enormity of animal suffering, its monumental moral wrong in needless and unjustifiable exploitation of animals, and the larger structural matrix in which human-over-human domination and human-over-animal domination emerge from the same prejudiced, power-oriented, and pathological violent mindset. Political resistance in western nations, above all, will advance a quantum leap when enough people recognize that the movements for human liberation, animal liberation, and earth liberation are so deeply interconnected that no one objective is possible without the realization of the others.

A truly revolutionary social theory and movement seeks to emancipate members of one species from oppression, but rather all species and the earth itself from the grip of human domination and colonization. A future "revolutionary movement" worthy of the name will grasp the ancient roots of hierarchy, such as took shape with the emergence of agricultural societies, and incorporate a new ethics of nature that overcomes instrumentalism and hierarchies of all forms. Humanism is a form of prejudice, bias, bigotry, and destructive supremacism; it is a stale, antiquated, immature, and dysfunction dogma; it is a form of *fundamentalism*, derived from the Church of "Reason" and, in comparison with the vast living web of life still humming and interacting, however tattered and damaged, it is, writ large, a *tribal morality* – in which killing a member of your own "tribe" is wrong but any barbarity unleashed on another tribe is acceptable if not laudable. Ultimately, humanism is pseudo-universalism, a Kantian quackery, a hypocritical pretense to ethics, a dysfunctional human identity and cosmological map helping to drive us ever-deeper into an evolutionary cul-de-sac.

The profound value of Patterson's book is to raise the animal standpoint – analytically and ethically – and to show in clear and decisive ways its pivotal importance to the entire spectrum of human interests and politics. Yet while I endorse and share Patterson's attempt to root hierarchy in the domination of humans over animals, and his goal to clarify the immense consequences of animal exploitation for human existence itself, I want to raise two critical points. First, Patterson's attempt to root all forms of oppression in one primal source betrays an essentialist theory and metaphysical longing for clear origins and unambiguous beginnings. While there is no doubt that the domination of animals is fundamental to the domination of humans, as his book brilliantly and convincingly shows, perhaps the mythical "first" hierarchy came out of a more complex social matrix within which other proto- or early forms of hierarchy were stirring, coalescing, and taking shape. It could be the case, for instance, that speciesism and patriarchy emerged together and were coeval, or that an even more complex and varied system of power arose whose details remain shrouded in the mists of prehistoric time. Second, Patterson's linkages between the oppression of animals and the oppression of humans often are too simplistic and unmediated, such that he ignores the forceful overdetermination of many forms of hierarchy. There is, for example. an important connection between speciesism and colonialism which Patterson draws out, but there are other conditioning factors responsible for bringing about and sustaining colonialism, such as stem from the fundamental logic of capitalism, which he fails to engage. Similarly, while Patterson brilliantly explores the relation between slaughterhouses and Nazi death camps, he fails to provide a more complex and multidimensional analysis that would ground the origins of Nazism in the rise of modernism, its hostile anti-modernism, and its opportunistic pursuit of the very capitalist values it condemned (while all the time being propped up in one way or another by numerous US corporations). When Patterson claims that "it was but one step from the industrialized killing of American slaughterhouses to Nazi Germany's assembly-line mass murder" one detects a linear and simplistic logic.

With such theoretical deficits, one wonders what political shortcomings follow as a consequence. In fact, Patterson paints himself in an idealist and subjectivist dead-end, as evident in his barely one-page asocial "Afterword" that looks to "end to our cruel and violent way of life" without any mention of its current institutional underpinnings. Similar to the subjectivist biases of many deep ecology approaches, Patterson seeks psychological changes, not socio-institutional changes, but the former can lead to nothing but vegetarian pot-lucks, animal prayer services, and a lifestyle advocacy that is completely coopted by capitalist consumerism and markets. Patterson's inattention to political economy and capitalism is symptomatic of the mainstream animal advocacy movement as a whole, whereby the predominant political approach is single-issue and focused on winning reforms through legislative changes in the state.

Given that Patterson's theory suggests that human liberation is inseparable from animal liberation, it is unfortunate he did not theorize these relations beyond the moral-psychological level. While animal liberation is a necessary condition for the realization of other liberation movements, it is not a sufficient condition. Whereas the animal advocacy movement tends to be single-issue in its mindset and tactics, it is important to frame the struggle for animal liberation as part of the global struggle against capitalism -- for today animal slavery is driven by capitalist growth and profit imperatives which themselves must be eliminated – which no "new awareness" alone can accomplish without tactics, politics, social movements, and alliance politics. Although speciesism (as well as racism and sexism) obviously predates capitalism and has far deeper roots than modernity, the state, and class systems as a whole, capitalism reinforces speciesism (as well as racism and sexism) in numerous ways. These range from capitalist commodification, profit,

Review: Eternal Treblinka (continued)

and growth imperatives to its mechanistic-instrumental worldview and the system of private property that extends from land and animals to DNA itself (in the current regime of biopiracy and the postmodern gene rush to create and patent new forms of life). Animal liberation can never be fully realized within a global capitalist system spiraling out of control, and thus must be part and parcel of a larger struggle against class domination and hierarchies of all kinds.

The crisis in the natural world reflects a crisis in the social world, whereby corporate elites and their servants in government have centralized power, monopolized wealth, destroyed democratic institutions, and unleashed a brutal and violent war against dissent. Corporate destruction of nature is enabled by asymmetrical and hierarchical social relations, whereby capitalist powers commandeer the political, legal, and military system to perpetuate and defend their exploitation of the social and natural worlds. To the extent that the animal and earth exploitation problems stem from or relate to social problems, they thereby require social and politics solutions that bring out deep structural transformation and radical democratization processes. One cannot change destructive policies without changing the institutions and power systems that cause, benefit from, and sustain them. An effective struggle for animal liberation, then, means tackling issues such as poverty, class, political corruption, and ultimately the inequalities created by transnational corporations and globalization.

Still, to spin the dialectical wheel back again, social change cannot take the first step in the right direction without a “new awareness” of how human liberation is impossible without animal liberation, without recognition that enlightenment, democracy, and moral progress are impossible without dismantling speciesism in favor of a truly non-violent, egalitarian, and inclusive community.

Book Review: Churchhill’s Pacifism as Pathology

Arbeiter Ring Publishing, 1998 , paper, 176 pp
Reviewed by Patrice Greanville

This is a small but indispensable volume for anyone seriously interested in social change, and who sooner or later may have to consider the place of violence in the general scheme of things. As the title implies, and wasting little time in preparing the audience for what will surely be a disturbing argument to many, the author lays out his case against white progressives—or, to be precise, the liberal/social democratic complacent legions of mostly well-educated middle and upper middle class activists—who are deemed "delusional" not only in the ineffectual tactics and strategies they pursue (which the ruling elites are only too happy to accommodate as per a well-scripted minuet), but in the belief that they are actually performing revolutionary acts...

The crux of Churchill's argument—pretty hard to refute—is that mainstream liberals, and a sizeable contingent of self-defined "Leftists" (read here mostly social democrats) will do anything except assume actual risk in opposing the system...and that, being mostly interested in practicing "comfort zone" politics, they will almost invariably indulge in essentially worthless "cathartic" posturizing instead of solid opposition, all the while vociferously denouncing and browbeating those who would dare suggest more confrontational tactics, including general strikes, active resistance, and so on. Thus the core of his polemic comprises two arguments: (1) That American pacifism has insinuated itself as the only and pre-eminent choice for social change and for oppositional strategies to the empire, and (2) that such a strategy invariably leads to the cul-de-sac of liberalism:

"American pacifism seeks to project itself as a revolutionary alternative to the status quo. Of course, such a movement or perspective can hardly acknowledge that its track record in forcing substantive change upon the state has been an approximate zero. [Hence]...a chronicle of significant success must be offered, even where none exists.<...> For proponents of the hegemony of nonviolent political action within the American opposition, time-honored fables such as the success of Gandhi's methods (in and of themselves) and even te legacy of Martin Luther King no longer retain the freshness and vitality required to achieve the necessary result, As this has become increasingly apparent, and as the potential to bring a number of emergently dissident elements (.e.g., "freezers," antinukers, environmentalists, opponents to saber-rattling in Central America and the Mideast, and so on) into some sort of centralized mass movement became greater in the mid-80s, a freshly packaged pacifist "history" of its role in opposing the Vietnam war began to be peddled with escalating frequency and insistence." (pp 65-6)

Seeking to drive a stake through the heart of middle-class pacifism, Churchill goes on to detail (and rebuke) some of the main claims made by the peaceful legions, particularly the almost universally accepted notion that it was the protests and demonstrations in the US that finally forced US policymakers to order a withdrawal from Vietnam. Churchill refutes this conceit by noting that the war was lost in the field, which is undeniable, as the humiliating images of Americans escaping Saigon from the rooftop of the US embassy amply demonstrated, and that, therefore it was first and above all a military defeat inflicted on the imperial armies (and their puppets) by the Vietnamese people that created the necessary conditions for a "pragmatic rethinking of the war" by its architects back in the imperial capital. Haven't we seen this terrible movie before?

The reason for the book thus lies in the utterly deformed political landscape presented by contemporary America, where the left, unlike any other in the developed capitalist world (except for the anglo-cultural zone nations that resemble it) has apparently adopted pacifism as the one and only method of "opposing" the empire. Consistent with the pervasiveness of this view, and to justify such narrow policy, many US progressives have embraced a literal idolatry of nonviolence, elevating the tactics and accomplishments of figures such as Ghandi and Dr. King to near infallibility, and believing (wrongly in the eyes of the author and this writer) that moral suasion alone is capable of liquidating well-entrenched institutionalized violence and inequality. Churchill believes that such extrapolations between entirely different cultures and historical epochs are wrong, ab principio, since they fail to take account of the role played by defensive and revolutionary violence in history—"the people in arms"—in both protecting the masses and their leaders from the establishment's repression, or in securing its prompt departure from the scene once the tipping point has been reached.

That nonviolence is not a formula to be applied in a robotic absolutistic fashion is abundantly borne out by events in the last 50 years. The Iranian revolution (1979) was far from a nonviolent process: the Shah had been opposed for decades by above ground and underground groups, several of which practiced armed struggle and paid a horrific price for it, while the last month of his rule saw masses of people in most Iranian cities, but

Review: Pacifism as Pathology (continued)

especially Tehran, literally storming strong points and tanks in the streets with their bare chests and being mowed down...until more and more soldiers simply gave up and melted away or switched sides. As for the collapse of the USSR (1991), Poland and most of the so-called "Eastern Bloc"—that came about as a result of complex processes that did not involve invested CLASS PRIVILEGES (as we have in the US and in other corporate-dominated nations), were set in motion by members of the ruling stratum itself (i.e., Gorbachev) and therefore did not necessitate huge and protracted armed struggles to resolve. An analogous process took place in China where the Maoism —regardless of flaws—was betrayed and overthrown from within, only to be replaced by an authoritarian-capitalist nation where the formal restoration of capitalism—for reasons of regime legitimation—continues to be denied.

As for South Africa, the end of apartheid did not issue from a nonviolent process. Decades-long protests against the fascist legislation escalated until 1958 when the tragedy of Sharpeville occurred. Soon thereafter the government tried to suppress opposition through the sledgehammer approach of bannings and systematic "targeted repression". The first to be hit were the ANC and the PAC, but such bannings merely caused the organisations to go underground and become even more militant. The "armed struggle" therefore began in earnest in 1958 and by 1970 was beginning to affect the South African economy as greater and greater manpower was required to maintain an ever increasing army. Thus, Mandela's organization, the ANC had both a civil and a military arm, even if the latter developed only after all roads to a peaceful elimination of Apartheid had proved futile, and long after the beneficiaries of the status quo had demonstrated through unrelenting savagery that only armed struggle would move history forward. The case of South Africa is of course far from unique. Other nations in sub-Sahara Africa also practiced armed insurgency to attain independence or"regime change" and they included Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and Mozambique.

Liberal illusions, liberal complicities

It's not an accident that from time to time certain "apostles of change" are anointed by the corporate media and recognized as such by the affluent liberal brigades. Of late, the much revered Arundhati Roy seems to have come to occupy this position in the pantheon, a fact that has afforded her the bullhorn to make some pretty seductive statements. I do not doubt for a minute that she means well, but I think she got it egregiously wrong in her brave iconic speech in New York, where she adduced "that there is no way to defeat the Empire by force and that its component parts must be isolated and paralyzed one by one."

Sounds eminently sensible, until we examine the idea up close, and realize that it also contains, in practice, a glaring contradiction. For how does Ms. Roy and her well-heeled admirers propose to paralyze the vital "component parts" of the most heavily armed, cynical, and ruthless class privilege system in history without some form of REAL confrontation? With 2-hour candlelight vigils and some symbolic arrests which, by the way, may or may not be reported by the corporate-owned media? If THAT were all that was required to get rid of an immoral, deeply rooted capitalist system, a Nazi terror regime, a vicious landowning oligarchy in El Salvador, and so on, humanity would have moved past these filthy horrors decades if not centuries ago. As Churchill points out in his book, Nazi Germany was defeated by the massive application of force; the racist American South was similarly juridically defeated in the 1860s by massive military force, by organized all-out violence, (I say juridically because in practice it took 100 more years of struggle that saw innumerable crimes before African Americans could begin to take their rightful place among their fellow citizens)...Fact is, there is not a single case in history where a deeply entrenched system of colonial, class or racial exploitation was overthrown by moral suasion and symbolic protests alone...If real change came about it was because force, serious disturbances, were being applied somewhere else alongside the nonviolent tracks...That's the point that Churchill and others are making in this book. It's a discomfiting point, but I'm afraid it's a point that can't be ignored.

Indeed, one of the things that make this volume especially provocative (and valuable) is that the question of violence vs. nonviolence is not only debated by Churchill, an academic, but also by Ed Mead, who wrote the book's introduction, and who was himself a participant in what was at the time an attempt at armed struggle.

Edward Allen Mead was one of the young political activists of the 1960s and 1970s whose frustration and rage drove them to resort to violence. He joined the George Jackson Brigade, a guerrilla group that blew up supermarkets, car dealerships, a power station, and other symbols of the system it was bent on destroying. To finance its operations, the Brigade robbed banks. A 1976 bank robbery in Tukwila, Washington, culminated in a shootout in which Mead and another Brigade member were captured. A third member was killed, and a fourth escaped but was later apprehended. Mead received a thirty-year Federal sentence for bank robbery and a forty-year state sentence for first-degree assault on a police officer, though neither of the officers in the shootout was hit.

Mead never abandoned his radical politics, but he did decide that violence was not the way to bring about change at that particular juncture. With the benefit of hindsight he told a reporter for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "I really know how wrong it was to do what I did. Not because it's legally wrong, but because it was just a great political mistake. You want things to happen so bad that you throw yourself into it. Today, I do it with a pen and a computer. . . .It's about what works."

While time may have mellowed Mead a bit, he remains quite lucid (and some would say adamant) about the options facing the younger generations of would-be world-changers.

"I think that we can agree that the exploited are everywhere and that they are angry. The question of violence and our own direct experience of it is something we will not be able to avoid when the righteous rage of the oppressed manifests itself in increasingly focused and violent forms [this was said in 1997]. When this time comes, it is likely that white pacifists will be the ruling class' first line of defense."

Later, zeroing in on his main contention, that the use or non-use of violence is a tactic, not a rigid article of faith good for all seasons, Mead declares:

"I have talked about violence in connection with political struggle for a long time and I've engaged in it. I see myself as one who incorrectly applied the tool of revolutionary violence during a period when its use was not appropriate. In doing so, my associates and I paid a terrible price...I served nearly two decades behind bars as a result of armed actions conducted by the George Jackson Brigade. During those years I studied and restudied the mechanics and applicability of both violence and noviolence to political struggle. I've had plenty of time to learn how to step back and take a look at the larger picture. And, however badly I may represent that picture today, I still find one conclusion inescapable: Pacifism as a strategy of achieving social, political and economic change can only lead to the dead end of liberalism."

Reflecting the difficulties implied in choosing violence or nonviolence, and if so, when, George Jackson himself had this to say about Martin Luther King's pacifism:

"M.L.K. organized his thoughts much in the same manner as you have organized yours. If you really knew and fully understood his platform you would never have expressed such sentiments as you did in your last letter. I am sure you are acquainted with the fact that he was opposed to violence and war; he was indeed a devout pacifist. It is very odd, almost unbelievable, that so violent and tumultuous a setting as this can still produce such men. He was out of place, out of season, too naive, too innocent, too cultured, too civil for these times. That is why his end was so predictable.

Violence in its various forms he opposed, but this did not mean that he

Review: Pacifism as Pathology (continued)

was passive. He knew that nature allows no such imbalances to exist for long. He was perceptive enough to see that the men of color across the world were on the march and their example would soon influence those in the U.S. to also stand up and stop trembling. So he attempted to direct the emotions and the movement in general along lines that he thought best suited to our unique situation: nonviolent civil disobedience, political and economic in character. I was beginning to warm somewhat to him because of his new ideas concerning U.S. foreign wars against colored peoples. I am certain that he was sincere in his stated purpose to 'feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort those in prisons, and trying to love somebody'. I really never disliked him as a man. As a man I accorded him the respect that he sincerely deserved.

It is just as a leader of black thought that I disagreed with him. The concept of nonviolence is a false ideal. It presupposes the existence of compassion and a sense of justice on the part of one's adversary. When this adversary has everything to lose and nothing to gain by exercising justice and compassion, his reaction can only be negative.

The symbol of the male here in North America has always been the gun, the knife, the club. Violence is extolled at every exchange: the TV, the motion pictures, the best-seller lists. The newspapers that sell best are those that carry the boldest, bloodiest headlines and most sports coverage. To die for king and country is to die a hero.
The Kings, Wilkinses and Youngs exhort us in King's words to 'put away the knives, put away your arms and clothe yourselves in the breastplate of righteousness' and 'turn the other cheek to prove our capacity to endure, to love'. Well, that is good for them perhaps but I most certainly need both sides of my head."

Social change does not come cheap. Social change—real social change—is not a tidy affair, a "black-tie dinner" as Mao suggested, and yes, at this stage of our moral evolution as a species, power still issues from the barrel of the gun. In the process things get messy, they get out of hand, awful mistakes are made on all sides, and eventually, if humanity is lucky, a good outcome claws its way to the surface —the result of irrepressible forces clashing in millions of places at once, and acting out their contradictions until a new social synthesis is obtained. And, in what some may regard as the ultimate irony, much of this process may escape the conscious choices made by the main actors.

In a grotesquely imperfect world riddled with hypocrisy, institutionalized violence, and the abuse of power—not to mention the monopoly of power—defensive force cannot be ruled out a priori as a rectification tool, especially since, as history (most recently in Iraq) has repeatedly shown, the abusers, those who would rape a country or a society for their own gain, have no qualms in applying torrential amounts of violence on often defenseless populations. And, a point that is often lost on rigid pacifists: the violence of the oppressed is not the moral equivalent of the violence of the oppressor. Aggressor and victim are not in the same category, and even though when engaged in combat they may be superficially similar, they inhabit different universes. Wrap your mind around that, if you can, and some of the death grip, the self-inflicted paralysis attending this topic, may begin to relax.

I could go on, but if you're a liberal I'm afraid the lessons of history will matter far less than attachment to convenient fantasies. —P.G.

P. Greanville is Cyrano's Journal Online's editor.

Animal Extremists Get Personal

by Greg Miller, writing in *Science* Magazine
http://www.sciencemag.org
Science. 21 December 2007: Vol. 318. no. 5858, pp. 1856 -1858

As animal-rights extremism wanes in the United Kingdom, U.S. researchers have faced increasing threats and harassment Early one Sunday morning last June, Arthur Rosenbaum was getting ready to go to a yoga class when his doorbell rang. A neighbor had noticed a suspicious bundle under Rosenbaum's white BMW sedan. The two walked out to the car, which was parked on the street of their leafy neighborhood near the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where Rosenbaum is chief of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Under the right front wheel was a plastic container full of an orangish liquid with a rag sticking out of a nozzle at one end. On the curb was a matchbook with a half-smoked cigarette woven through the matches. Rosenbaum thought it was a prank.

It turned out to be a crude incendiary device. At his neighbor's urging, Rosenbaum called the police, who quickly called in the bomb squad. By midmorning, Rosenbaum's block had been evacuated, and investigators told Rosenbaum that the device could have destroyed his car if it had gone off as intended. They suspected it was the work of animal-rights extremists, who have targeted several UCLA researchers in the past year and a half.

Rosenbaum says that at the time he didn't believe it. After all, he is primarily a surgeon, operating hundreds of times a year to correct the vision of children with eye muscle disorders. He has ties to only one animal-research project, a pilot study to test an electrical stimulator that could bring paralyzed eye muscles back to life.

Getting Personal (continued)

That one project turned out to be enough to put Rosenbaum on the hit list of a group calling itself the Animal Liberation Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the incident 3 days later in an online communiqué on 27 June. In the subsequent months, Rosenbaum says, anti-animal research activists have staged several protests at his home, sometimes at night, concealing their faces with bandanas and ski masks and using bullhorns to shout insults in "the most obnoxious, vile language." Neighbors within twoblocks of Rosenbaum's house have received graphic pamphlets condemning his "imprisonment, torture, and murder of innocent primates," and his wife received a letter stuffed with razor blades and threatening physical harm unless she convinced Rosenbaum to stop his animal research.

Vandalized.

This summer, ALF sprayed graffiti on the home of one researcher at Oregon Health and Science University; a colleague received similar treatment earlier this month. Animal researchers in the United Kingdom have long endured such personal threats and harassment. In the United States, however, research facilities, not individuals, have been themost frequent targets--until recently. U.S. researchers have seen a spate of recent attacks by groups that consider destruction of private property and threats of personal violence to be justifiable tools in their fight to end animal research. And although recent legislation has helped U.K. police crack down on animal-rights extremists, fewer suchmeasures exist in the United States, leaving universities struggling to come up with ways to safeguard their researchers.

UCLA, which has had more than its share of disturbing incidents, is leading the way. After being criticized for what some considered an anemic response to earlier threats and harassment, the university crafted a plan to protect its researchers that now draws praise from many quarters. "UCLA is showing some genuine leadership," says Norka Ruiz Bravo, deputy director for extramural research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

But that's not enough, say some researchers who have been targeted. They and others want to see scientific societies and funding agencies take a more active role. Change is needed on the legal and law enforcement fronts, too. Despite the recent incidents, there's little sense of urgency in the scientific community, says Robert Palazzo, president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Bethesda. "Where's the noise on this?" he asks.

An ugly turn of events

Overall numbers of illegal incidents by U.S. animal-extremist groups are up sharply in recent years, according to figures from the National Association for Biomedical Research (see graphic, p. 1858). Anecdotal evidence suggests that personal threats and home vandalism have risen as well. "It used to be that most of the activities centered around breaking into laboratories, … [but now] the animal activists have decided to go after the homes and families of scientists, which has ratcheted up the anxiety and danger," says Jeffrey Kordower, a neurobiologist at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, and chair of the Society for Neuroscience's Committee on Animals in Research.

The troubles that had been simmering below the surface at UCLA began to boil over the night of 30 June 2006, when an incendiary device was delivered to a home in nearby Bel Air. The device was intended for Lynn Fairbanks, who studies primate genetics and behavior at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, but instead was left on the doorstep of a 70-year-old neighbor. If it had gone off, investigators concluded, the house and any inhabitants could have been engulfed in flames. On 11 July 2006, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) claimed responsibility for planting the device.

Shortly after that incident, UCLA neurobiologist Dario Ringach announced that he was giving up his research with nonhuman primates. "Please don't bother my family any more," Ringach wrote in an e-mail to animal activists dated 6 August 2006. The subject line read simply: "You win." Ringach declined to comment for this article, but colleagues say he feared for the safety of his two young children, who had been frightened by masked protesters who came to his home on several occasions, sometimes banging on the children's bedroom window at night. The Fairbanks incident may have been the last straw. Colleagues say Ringach now conducts his research entirely with human volunteers and has not been harassed further.

In the most recent incident, on 20 October, vandals flooded the Beverly Hills home of UCLA neuropharmacologist Edythe London, breaking a first-floor window and inserting a running garden hose. Not at home that night, London and her husband discovered the damage the following day. They expect the repairs to cost about $30,000. In a communiqué dated 25 October, ALF activists wrote that if not for the fear of starting a brushfire, arson would have been their first choice. "It would have been just as easy to burn your house down, Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time."

Unlike many targeted researchers, London spoke out. In a 1 November editorial in the Los Angeles Times, she wrote that her research on the biological basis of addiction--which focuses on human brain imaging but also involves some work with primates--was motivated in part by the death of her father, a chronic smoker. "We are also testing potential treatments, and all of our studies comply with federal laws designed to ensure humane care" of animals, she wrote. The letter elicited a variety of responses, some supportive, some not. One writer compared London, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, to Nazis who experimented on concentration camp prisoners, a common theme on Web sites and blogs of extremist groups. "They honestly and truly believe that animals are equal to Jews in the Holocaust, and they are fighting to liberate them," says one targeted researcher.

Learning from the past

In the aftermath of the 2006 attack on Fairbanks and Ringach's decision to give up his animal research, UCLA was sharply criticized for reacting too slowly and without sufficient force. An editorial by Science Editor-in-Chief Donald Kennedy noted that then-acting Chancellor of UCLA Norman Abrams waited several weeks before condemning the attacks in a public statement (Science, 15 September 2006, p. 1541). Fifteen faculty members in Ringach's department signed a 28 August 2006 letter lamenting the "apathetic" response of the UCLA community.

In mid-September, Abrams appointed a task force to look into what the university should be doing. The task force, chaired by law school professor Jonathan Varat, delivered its report in December 2006. The document argues that the university has an obligation to protect its faculty members not just on campus but at their residences as well. Many of its recommendations have been put into place, says Roberto Peccei, UCLA's vice chancellor for research. For one, the university appointed a high-level point person for all issues related to animal activism who is on call 24/7 to coordinate the response to any incidents. Under new agreements with police in surrounding communities, UCLA campus police now respond to incidents at faculty members' homes and patrol some neighborhoods previously outside their jurisdiction. The university has paid for various security measures at some faculty members' homes. Reaching out to nonviolent student groups that have animal welfare concerns is also part of the plan.

This year, when ALF claimed responsibility for the device left under Rosenbaum's car, Abrams issued a statement immediately condemning the "criminal and deplorable tactics" and reaffirming the university's commitment to protecting its faculty members and their families. UCLA's new chancellor, Gene Block, who took over from Abrams on 1 August, issued a similarly forceful statement after London's home was vandalized.

Getting Personal (continued)

She and Rosenbaum say that they're grateful for the university's support. "There was a lot of criticism [of the response to the 2006 incidents], and I think the university took that to heart," says Rosenbaum. Spurred by the attack on Rosenbaum, UCLA also decided not to comply with requests for animal protocols and other research-related materials made via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This and other public-record laws are intended to give private citizens access to information held by public agencies, and animal activists use them to gain access to research records. (The Web site of the Primate Freedom Project, for example, contains a fill-in-the-blanks FOIA request letter for research animal records, along with the addresses of several major primate centers.)

In December 2006, the university received a California Public Records Act request for animal protocols for all primate researchers from Jeremy Beckham of Salt Lake City, Utah, says UCLA campus counsel Patricia Jasper. Researchers at the University of Utah say Beckham has been an active animal-rights campaigner on campus. In response, UCLA provided redacted documents, with some names and details omitted, in April 2007, 2 months before the attack on Rosenbaum. These documents are posted in their entirety on the Animal Liberation Press Office Web site, along with a link to Rosenbaum's research project in NIH's CRISP database. That was the deciding factor, says Peccei. "I presume that this path will eventually lead us to court," Peccei says. "But we have taken the position that at this moment our researchers are in danger, and we are not willing to release these records."

Now what?

Already, the UCLA plan is being used as a model. At the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, where several researchers have been recent targets, faculty members used the UCLA plan as a guide for developing their own, says Jeffrey Botkin, chair of the university's research animals committee. The Society for Neuroscience drew on the UCLA plan for its document, Best Practices for Protecting Researchers and Research, scheduled for release early next year, says society president Eve Marder. She hopes that institutions will use the document to prepare before extremists strike "so that they're never blindsided by anything that happens."

Some universities are taking additional proactive steps. The Salt Lake City Council, at the university's urging, passed a law in July that bans protests within 100 feet (30 meters) of private homes. The ordinance was modeled on similar ones in other states that have been used successfully to limit harassment of doctors who perform abortions, Botkin says. At a workshop on animals in research at the recent Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in San Diego, California, researchers expressed frustration that NIH and other agencies aren't doing more to help protect the scientists they fund. Some, for example, would like to see NIH remove investigators' names and certain key words from the CRISP database to make it harder for animal-rights groups to find them. NIH's Ruiz Bravo balks at that idea: "We have to balance transparency in government with those kinds of genuine concerns." Others at the workshop argued that scientific societies should do more to raise public awareness of the benefits of animal research--for veterinary as well as human medicine--and to counter the assertion that researchers have no concern for animal welfare.

At the end of the day, however, scientists can do only so much, says Simon Festing, director of the Research Defence Society, an advocacy group based in London. "Animal-rights extremism is a criminal matter, and … we have to look to government and police to stop illegal activity." In the United Kingdom, attacks on researchers have declined sharply in recent years, largely as a result of better policing, Festing says. In 2004, for example, the United Kingdom formed a National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit to advise local police about how to deal with extremists and prevent attacks. The unit helped coordinate a 2-year investigation involving more than 700 police, culminating in May with raids in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Belgium and the arrest of 30 suspected extremists. So far, 19 have been charged with crimes including theft and blackmail.

Legal changes have helped as well, Festing says. The 2005 Serious Organised Crime and Police Act gave police more power to go after extremists who wage an organized campaign of intimidation and violence against a university or some other institution. Amendments to existing laws, such as beefed-up "antisocial behaviour ordinances" that outlaw protests at individual homes that a reasonable person would view as intimidating, have helped close loopholes exploited by animal-rights extremists, Festing says.

Aid for U.S. researchers may eventually come from the federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, signed into law in November 2006. That law expands previous protections for "animal enterprises" such as research centers to include associated individuals and businesses. Under the law, threats and harassment at a researcher's home can now be prosecuted as acts of terrorism. (Peaceful demonstrations and other activities protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution are not affected.) The new law has not yet been used to prosecute anyone because no arrests have been made in appropriate cases, says Janice Fedarcyk, special agent in charge of counterterrorism in the Los Angeles office of the FBI. Fedarcyk says that it's possible the new law could be used to prosecute those behind the UCLA incidents--if and when they are caught.

Big Headache for Big Pharma

by Will Hall, originally at Adbusters Magazine

Eli Lilly CEO Sydney Taurel received a 5-year $37-million compensation package for heading a company whose ethical standards are indistinguishable from those of a common criminal.

For pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, death and injury are just a cost of doing business. When Zyprexa, Lilly's drug to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, hit the marketplace in 1996, it was hailed as an "atypical" – a "safe, gentle psychotropic," more effective than older drugs like Thorazine and Trilafon, without the dangerous side effects. Sales skyrocketed. The hype soon gave way to reality, as Lilly faced waves of lawsuits by patients suffering from diabetes, massive weight gain, pancreatitis and cardiac problems. Lilly responded with the cozy arrangement that worked with Prozac, another blockbuster plagued with problems: quietly settle suits out of court, with proceedings sealed and secret under a gag order. Anything embarrassing – or illegal – that Lilly is doing behind closed doors would remain hidden from public view.

Even though the payout is enormous – more than a billion dollars in settlements to tens of thousands of plaintiffs – Lilly can afford it: atypicals sell for ten times more than older drugs, and Lilly's marketing machine made Zyprexa its biggest profit maker, with more than 20 million customers worldwide and sales topping $4 billion annually. So Lilly writes a check, buys the silence of the people harmed by its products, and then turns around and passes the cost along to the consumer at inflated drugstore prices. All perfectly legal.

What Lilly didn't count on was a whistleblower, a lawyer and hackers taking matters into their own hands. Just as Lilly's legal muscle was lax during Christmas holidays, one of the expert witnesses in the Zyprexa litigation contacted human rights attorney Jim Gottstein, who used a combination of clever subpoena wizardry and fast action to get hundreds of secret documents out from under the court seal. Gottstein turned the memos over to The New York Times before Lilly could plug the leak. The memos, emails and correspondence reveal how Lilly's marketing strategy bent and broke the law, hid unfavorable risk studies and pushed Zyprexa for unapproved use on the elderly and children. The Times ran repeated front page stories, and Lilly's stock took a nose dive.

Claiming "trade secrets" and proprietary "merchandising techniques," Lilly lawyers swooped down on Gottstein, seizing emails and voice mail records. They convinced the court to order an injunction forbidding further distribution of the files, but Gottstein had already sent out disks loaded with

Big Headache (continued)

Scanned copies to a dozen activists and journalists around the country. Lilly tracked the disks down, trying to halt the escalating crisis.

And this is where the hackers come in. Someone – still not identified by Lilly – got a copy, but any distribution traced back to them could lead to contempt of court and serious legal consequences. So they turned to software called Tor, set up by the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Tor is an anonymous server privacy tool EFF created to help dissidents in totalitarian regimes like China slip past state censors. It was perfect to help the whistle-blowers evade Lilly's surveillance. The file – zyprexakills.tar.gz – found its way into cyberspace, and the court finally ruled that Lilly couldn't block websites from hosting the file once it was freely available online. The leak finally went public.

The Zyprexa documents are a disturbing glimpse into the marketing mind of one of the biggest companies in the world, a firm with close ties to the Bush Administration (Lilly CEO Sidney Taurel sits on the Homeland Security Council). When a study showed three times the risk of diabetes over other drugs, Lilly simply hid it from the Food and Drug Administration's scrutiny. Lilly aimed sales to dementia patients – without approval – in a campaign called "Viva Zyprexa." They instructed product representatives to downplay drug risks, and targeted children, who Zyprexa has never been tested on. Emails discussed the strategy of indemnifying doctors who prescribe Zyprexa against any legal action: "Our experience with Prozac," the memo said, "confirms the impact and goodwill of such an initiative." The memos reveal callous indifference to the diabetes risk Zyprexa causes, perhaps because Lilly's other top selling drugs include – you guessed it – diabetes medications.

Lilly now faces a snowballing scandal. The Times compared Zyprexa to Vioxx, Merck's painkiller withdrawn from the market after leaked documents showed the company hid heart attack risks. FDA scientist Dr. David Graham, who blew the whistle on Vioxx, testified to Congress that atypicals like Zyprexa kill some 62,000 people a year in unapproved uses. A study in the Archives of General Psychiatry concluded atypicals were no more effective than older, cheaper drugs, and five state governments, with enormous budgets for atypicals, initiated investigations. And last month, four-year-old Rebecca Riley died from drugs prescribed by a psychiatrist, including an atypical, raising concerns about the approximately 30,000 children under five who take these drugs, despite no study on drug safety for children.

Lilly objected to its secret memos going public because they might "cause unwarranted fear among patients that will cause them to stop taking their medication." Yet this gets to the heart of Lilly's corruption. Beyond hiding drug risks and marketing illegally, Big Pharma doesn't trust its customers to make informed decisions about their health care. Growing numbers of people are turning off the TV pill ads and exploring other ways to deal with their suffering. A New York Times article last year broke the story of the many people with a schizophrenia diagnosis who do well with non-medication treatments. Maybe the solution isn't to be found in a pill after all?

Now that would bring down Big Pharma faster than any scandal.

Will Hall is co-founder of the Freedom Center, and is a member of the Icarus Project.

Science Park Developer Quits After Animal Activist Threat

Dutch News

Threats by animal rights activists have led to a developer pulling out of plans to build a science park in the Limburg town of Venray.

In a statement issued on Monday afternoon, developer Van der Looy said it would not go ahead with the project due to the 'unacceptably threatening attitude' of certain groups.

On Christmas Eve the houses of several project managers were daubed with paint. 'We decided immediately to stop,' the company said on its website. The action has been claimed by the Animal Liberation Front (DBF) which said in a letter to Van der Looy that its next action would not be so 'friendly'.

The controversial €60m Science Link is intended as a technology centre housing life science companies and is set to create 400 high-quality jobs. The DBF claims companies planning to locate in the science park would carry out animal experiments for the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors.

News agency ANP says that Venray council will meet on Tuesday to discuss the case, adding that no companies had yet signed up for the a place on the site.

A spokesman told the NRC Handelsblad that another company would now be sought to take over the project. Christian Democrat MP Sybrand van Haersma Buma urged minisiters to give their full support to Venray council, saying he was surprised that animal rights activisists could so easily terrorise entrepreneurs.

"One can only empathise with individuals, motivated by a sincere desire for reform, who join ecology groups, consumer organizations and alternative political parties. In any of these groups these individuals are directed by a firmly entrenched leadership through a maze of politically motivated compromises to an end that is sadly predictable: the indefinite postponement of profound social transformation, the enrichment of the careers of a few bureaucrats and the permanent disillusion of a number of intelligent individuals." --from Call It Sleep, Cronin/Seltzer

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

Many more anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last few weeks, including those signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

November 19, 2007
On the night of monday november the 12 we hit the house of deborah villar. If the name sounds familiar its cause shes the sister of the mayor of los angeles, california. We spent the last couple months doing some recon at the department of los angeles animal shelters. We even saw places like the rooms they bump off animals. What haunted us most were the wide eyes, wide eyes with the most terrified expressions we ever saw. The stk web site has a video that doesn't show the half of it.

Sorry if you take this the wrong way but we read about a protest at deborahs house. But we know that in order to change the behavior of a mental case like antonio villaraigosa and make him do whats right for these wide eyed animals who still haunt us is to hit him harder and harder. The mayor is the person who has bloody hands who appointed the dirt bag Boks. The mayor is the person who can make the killing come to an end. This is why we covered deborahs black suv with tons of stripper and poured red paint all over the steps, walkway and fancy ornamental light fixtures at thirty four twelve castleford place in rowland hights, california. Villaraigosa deserves to be bumped off like the dogs and cats we witnessed with their eyes wide, terrified before they were bumped off. He got off way to easy. --cat and dog liberation army

December 7, 2007
In the dark morning fog of December 6, 2007, the Animal Liberation Front set its sights on the home of OHSU researcher Miles Joseph Novy, 3107 Southwest Nottingham Drive in Portland, Oregon, dessimating his cars with grafitti and paint stripper. Novy's reproductive research on primates has resulted in this senseless torture of one of natures most magnificant creatures.

This blatant disregard for the earth, animals and it's resources shall not go unseen by the ever-watching eyes of the ALF. No longer shall be the treatment of life as a commodity and ideologies based on material greed. It's time to fight back. The only reason why people like Miles Novy sleep at night is because we let them. --ALF

December 24, 2007
Today, on Christmas Eve, a fur selling Brooklyn boutique was visited by the ALF at their peak shopping hours. One activist distributed liberal amounts of Liquid Ass, a product that, when sprayed, is the noxious and overpowering stench of rotting shit.

Fur stinks and your entire store, the carpets, the clothing, and especially the fur and fur trimmed items, were sprayed with the Liquid Ass and all smelled like the inside of an asshole in minutes.

Victory was already beginning as leaving the disgusting fur-filled store, a pair of potential customers walked in, visibly gagged on the rotting, putrid stench and promptly left. It's sure that they're not the only customers who went elsewhere to do their last minute shopping.

A message to anyone who sells fur in Brooklyn: This was only a calling card. STOP SELLING FUR! Next time you might find your locks glued, your windows broken, or worse...Happy Holidays, --ALF

December 24, 2007
On December 24, the Animal Liberation Front - Mexico (FLAM) painted on a circus where they have imprisoned our brothers and humiliated and tortured them physically and psychologically. NO MORE CIRCUSES WITH ANIMALS was what appeared on the big top and cars of circus speciests. No more speciesism, long live the FLAM!

Spanish:
el pasado 24 de diciembre, el Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (FLAM) hizo pintas en un circo en donde tienen a nuestros hermanos presos de la humillacion y de la toruta fisica y psicologica, NO MAS CIRCOS CON ANIMALES fue lo que aparecio en la carpa y autos de especistas cirquences. no mas especismo, viva el FLAM!

January 4, 2008
Attack on fur business in Mexico: The Animal Liberation Front has attacked a fur business, the cruelest, most despicable business that could exist against our animal brothers and sisters, apart from experimentation. 'FUR = MURDER' and 'Animal Liberation Front' were some of the slogans painted on the building. THERE IS NO EXCUSE NOT TO FIGHT!
TAKE WHAT YOU HAVE AT HAND AND THROW IT AT THE SPECIESTS

January 4, 2008
In the early morning of January 4, the Animal Liberation Front-Green Black Commando (FLA-CVN), infiltrated a farm located in Mexico State, rescuing and releasing 2 sister doves and 1 small brother turkey, who were detained and imprisoned in a cage. We wanted to release more animals but to be safe we had to leave the farm, but not without first opening the cage of another turkey. NO MORE ANIMAL PRISONS!
FLA-CVN MEXICO

January 11, 2008
Seeing that our brother animals were victims of torture and their torturers were exploiting them to earn more and more money, the Animal Liberation Front - Commando Green Black attacked Rolan's Circo, a circus that uses dogs and sea lions in its 'shows.' Tired of this situation we decided to paint slogans on circus trucks, on the tent, and on walls. Passivity makes you complicit, use direct action and declare war on speciesm!

Spanish:
Al ver que nuestros hermanos animales estaban ciendo victimas de la tortura y que sus verdugos los explotan para ganar mas y mas dinero, el Frente de Liberacion Animal - Comando Verde Negro llevo un ataque a Rolan's Circo, circo que utiliza a perros y lobos marinos en sus 'shows'; cansados de esta situacion decidimos ir y realizar diferentes pintas en el transporte de propaganda del circo, en su carpa, en su fachada y lo hicimos!

La pasividad te hace complice, utilicemos la Accion Directa y declaremosle la guerra al especismo! FLA-CVN

January 17, 2008
Two turkeys liberated from a Louis Rich grow-out barn in South Carolina.

"In this sick culture, we know that every day the sick, the stupid, and the EVIL bully and destroy those who are far their better. Every lab, farm and fur animal; every poisoned wild bird; every beaten child, every raped woman knows this." --ALF

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jonathan Paul #07167-085
FCI Phoenix
Federal Correctional Institution
37910 N 45th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
Unit I, FCI Sandstone
P.O. Box 1000
Sandstone, MN 55072

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers # 1306729
Lane County Adult Corrections
101 West 5th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401-2695

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Pending re-sentencing!

Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher #36360-086
FCI Dublin
5701 8th Street- Camp Parks- Unit F
Dublin, CA 94568

Nathan "Exile" Block #36359-086
FCI Lompoc
3600 Guard Road
Lompoc, CA 93436

Unrepentant eco-warriors convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of their co-defendants, both are currently serving 7 years 8 months and are scheduled for release in 2012.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- **Released!**

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Chris McIntosh #30512-013
USP Hazelton PO Box 2000
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

Chris is currently in his 3rd year of an 8 year sentence for arson at a McDonalds in Seattle.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

Volume 4, Number 2: April 2008

InThis Issue:

- **The Politics of Green Scare** by Stephen Lendman
- **What You Give Is What You Should Get** by Gary Yourofsky
- **Group Ranks Iowa Second-most Painful State for Lab Animals**
- **Netherlands: Sciencelink Animal Lab Has Been Abandoned**
- **33 Reasons Vivisection is Pointless**
- **Scientific American: Feds Agree to Toxicity Tests That Cut Animal Testingy**
- **A Closer Look at the Green Scare** by Daniel McGowan
- **2008: 7.3 Million Americans Are Vegetarian**
- **Monkey Boiled Alive At Research Lab**

The early months of 2008 have seen a major spike in underground direct action, perhaps driven by increasing repression of known animal rights activists by US law enforcement at the behest of affected industry, . Accordingly, support of the Press Office has flourished, and Press Officers continue to conduct dozens of interviews with the mainstream media, providing the animals' side of the story in news articles and accounts, deliver inspirational and informative talks all over the world, and hopefully inspire many more people to join the struggle against those who abuse, exploit, torture, and murder non-human animals.

There have been those who have criticized the Press Office for reporting on, and refusing to condemn direct action taken on the behalf of animal liberation that harmed or threatened to harm human beings. Not innocent humans but those complicitous in the torture, enslavement and murder of non-human animals. The Press Office has tried to maintain the perspective not of the privileged, predominantly white participants who so commonly make up the soldiers in the struggle for animal liberation, but that of other historical movements that seek to end the obscenity and egregious violence perpetrated on innocent victims. Other struggles, including the fight against apartheid in South Africa, the fight to free black slaves here in the US and the fight for the rights of indigenous cultures, have not had the luxury or the option of avoiding the use of physical force to protect themselves, and have always used reciprocal violence as one tool in an arsenal of tactics to alleviate oppression. In a battle for the moral and ethical high ground, in the fight on behalf of the animals, the most oppressed, abused and tortured beings the world has ever known, the possibility of further human casualties exists. Indeed, many animal rights campaigners have already been killed in the struggle. We do not encourage or call for the killing of (non-innocent) human beings, only state that we believe it may be part of the struggle for animal liberation, just as it has been an important factor in every other successful, and no less important, liberation struggle.

Thus far, the animal rights movement is and has been the most peaceful and restrained movement the world has ever known considering the amount of terror, abuse and murder perpetrated upon innocent animals for greed and profit. If by chance violence is used by those who fight for non-human sentient beings, it must be looked at in perspective and in historical context.
For the animals:

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defence of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

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The Politics of Green Scare
by Stephen Lendman

In May 2005, FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism John Lewis told a Senate panel that ecoterrorism is "one of today's most serious domestic terrorism threats." Then the FBI's James Jarboe estimated that two organizations (the Earth Liberation Front - ELF and Animal Liberation Front - ALF) committed over 600 criminal acts since 1996, causing over $43 million in damage. For his part, Lewis said both groups committed more than 1100 such acts since 1976, "conservatively" resulting in around $110 million in damages.

What's going on, and is there anything to these charges? Coming from FBI sources makes them highly suspect, especially when there are two types of documented cases:
-- people guilty of non-violent offenses called "terrorism" and given excessively harsh sentences; and most disturbing
-- innocent people targeted, accused, convicted and sentenced to hard time for environmental activism or supporting animal rights; and that's on top of hundreds of other political persecutions and many thousands of innocent people (or petty criminals) in US prisons.

This behavior isn't new in America, but things heated up after 9/11 with the administration wasting no time getting going. That evening, George Bush addressed the nation and declared a "war against terrorism," asked for world support, and began the government's "emergency (preventive war strategy) response plans." It was planned and ready before 9/11 as a "war of terrorism" to defile the law, wage aggressive wars, usurp unprecedented powers, destroy our civil liberties, and convince the public to sacrifice freedom for the security they never got. In addition, the October 2001 USA Patriot Act (written well before 9/11) created the federal crime of "domestic terrorism" that broadened the definition and applied it to US citizens as well as aliens.

When John Lewis addressed another Senate panel in May 2004, he stated that "the FBI divides the terrorist threat facing (the country) into two broad categories, international and domestic....and during the past decade we have witnessed dramatic changes in the nature of the domestic terrorist threat." For a while "right-wing extremism" (loosely defined as the militia movement) overtook left-wing terrorism (but in) the past several years....special interest extremism (from groups like) the Animal Liberation

Politics of Green Scare (continued)

Front (ALF), the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), and related extremists, has emerged as a serious domestic terrorist threat." That view is amplified on the FBI's web site that states the Bureau "is part of a vast national and international campaign dedicated to defeating terrorism" with ecoterrorism a key part of it.

The FBI defined it in 2002 to mean: "the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally-oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature."

Activists refer to a tactic called "monkeywrenching" from the 1985 Dave Foreman/Bill Haywood-edited book "Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching." It describes it as:

-- "nonviolent resistance to the destruction of natural diversity and wilderness (and) never directed against human beings or other forms of life;

-- strategic....thoughtful (and) deliberate in order to succeed;

-- individual or very small (group actions) of people who have known each other for years (and have) trust and a good working relationship;

-- targeted (because) mindless, erratic vandalism is counterproductive as well as unethical;

-- timely (and) not....when there is a nonviolent civil disobedience action;

-- dispersed (to) hasten overall industrial retreat from wild areas;

-- fun (even though it's) serious and potentially dangerous;

-- not revolutionary....to overthrow any social, political, or economic system;

-- simple (with) elaborate commando operations generally avoided; and

-- deliberate and ethical (by being) the most moral of all actions: protecting life, defending Earth."

The Earth First Journal defines the practice as: "Ecotage (environmentally-motivated sabotage), ecodefense, billboard bandit(ry by sawing offensive ones down), road reclamation (to remediate environmental damage), tree spiking (with nails to discourage destructive logging), even fire." These are unlawful sabotage acts "of industrial extraction and development equipment, as a means of striking at the Earth's destroyers where they commit their crimes and hitting them where they feel it most - in their profit margins." It goes "beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate objects. It is one of the last steps in defense of the wild....by an Earth defender when almost all other measures have failed."

In May 2004, Republican George Nethercutt targeted them by introducing the Ecoterrorism Prevention Act of 2004, but it didn't pass. If it had, it would have made a federal crime: "certain violent, threatening, obstructive, and destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with plant and animal enterprises, and for other purposes."

Republicans tried again in July with the Terrorism Against Animal-Use Entities Prohibition Improvement Act that would have amended the 1992 Animal Enterprise Protection Act and made it harsher. It also failed to pass, but defeat was only temporary.

On November 27, 2006, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) amended the 1992 act and became law with very harsh provisions. It's language is broad and vague, but it criminalizes First Amendment activities that advocate for animal rights like peaceful protests, leafleting, undercover investigations, whistleblowing and boycotts.

The new law updates the earlier act with penalties far exceeding comparable offenses under other laws. It also goes much further. It allows expanded surveillance of animal rights organizations, including criminal wiretapping, and makes it easier for a court to find probable cause for the vague crime of economic damage or disruption than for one requiring hard evidence a person or group plans to commit these acts.

The bill exempts "lawful public, governmental or business reaction to the disclosure of information about an animal enterprise," but that only applies to economic disruption claims, not damage, and makes it hard to distinguish between the two. It also:

-- expands the kinds of facilities covered by adding ones that use or sell animals and animal products;

-- covers any person, entity or organization connected to an animal enterprise;

-- applies to any form of advocacy;

-- criminalizes threatening conduct and protected speech as well as communication with anyone engaging in these practices;

-- protects corporate animal abusers with a vested interest in silencing dissent; and

-- targets any form of civil disobedience or protest activity and designates animal advocates as terrorists even when they cause no physical harm; in addition, the bill's language is so broad and vague (by design), it's hard to know the difference between legal and illegal behavior; it's an act of green scare state terrorism that, in fact, can be used against anyone.

Green Scare - A Definition

Activists equate it to earlier Red Scare periods after WW I and II when the government used various schemes to incite fear, sanction witch hunt prosecutions, and win widespread public approval for them. The term may first have been used in 2002 and refers to legal and extralegal government actions against animal liberation and environmental activists. The Spirit of Freedom prisoner support network defines it as "tactics the government and (their enforcement agencies use) to attack the ELF/ALF (Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front) and specifically those who publicly support them."

The term also refers to the 2005 arrests, indictments and convictions from the FBI's Operation Backfire against alleged ELF/ALF activists. It charged them with damaging property, conspiracy, arson and using destructive devices.

The Operation was the FBI's code name for its ten year domestic "war on terrorism" that's, in fact, a war on dissent. It resulted in 17 Pacific Northwest arson indictments with evidence that was very suspect. It came from a heroin-addicted self-professed serial arsonist whose former girl friend mentioned him in a grand jury proceeding. On December 7, 2005, it culminated when federal and local law enforcement agents began the largest ever roundup of alleged environmental and animal liberation activists. Seven arrests were made in four states, others got grand jury subpoenas, and people seized were charged with various acts of destroying property as part of ELF and ALF efforts.

Those arrested faced potential unprecedented sentences for non-violent acts from which no one was harmed. In some cases, they could be mandatory 30 year periods and in others life if found guilty on all counts. That compares to a median sentence of five years for arson.

With that as a threat, all but four defendants testified against the others in return for leniency. The remaining four struck plea bargains to admit responsibility but incriminate no one else. At sentencing in June 2007, the presiding judge was harsh. He included Terrorism Enhancements (TE) that are used when the justice department decides a crime aimed to influence or coerce government policy. It means sentences may be longer, and the Bureau of Prisons gets greater latitude in assigning prisoners that may be to "supermax" facilities for the most violent offenders.

In this case, sentences ranged from three years, one month to 13 years with most defendants getting added TEs. In addition, on October 26, 2007, FBI informant and serial arsonist Jacob Ferguson pleaded guilty to one count of arson and an additional count of attempted arson. According to his plea bargain, he won't be charged for his other offenses. Further, he's required to make no restitution, his formal sentencing keeps being postponed, it may come up ahead, but prosecutors recommend he spend no time in prison, receive no fines, and be able to keep the $50,000 or more he was paid for cooperating. That's the state of things today where

Politics of Green Scare (continued)

anything goes in the "war on terrorism" and publicizing arrests and convictions takes precedence over justice. Unless stopped, things will only get worse.

ELF and ALF - A Brief Description

On its web site, ELF describes itself as "an underground movement with no leadership, membership or official spokesperson" and uses its site "to inform and chronicle issues related to ELF." It further states:

-- "Any individuals who committed arson or any other illegal acts under the ELF name....choose to do so....and do so only driven by their personal conscience;

-- These choices are not endorsed, encouraged, or approved of by this web site's management, webmasters, affiliates, or other participants;

-- The intention of this web site is journalistic in intent only to inform and chronicle issues related to ELF;

-- The owners, management, webmasters, affiliates, or other participants of this website are not spokespersons, members, or affiliates of The Earth Liberation Front in any way; nor do the opinions of anyone acting in the name of The Earth Liberation Front or ELF, represent the opinions of" those affiliated with this site.

Others refer to the ELF as a collective of autonomous individuals or cells that use "economic sabotage and guerrilla war to stop the exploitation and destruction of the natural environment." The organization was founded in Brighton, England in 1992, spread across Europe by 1994, and is now an international movement in over a dozen countries. The FBI designated ELF its top domestic terror threat in March 2001 and called the group "ecoterrorists."

The ALF is an international animal liberation organization with roots in the 19th century and with no formal membership or leadership. Its web site defines "animal rights" as "the philosophy of allowing nonhuman animals to have the basic rights that all sentient beings desire; freedom to live a natural life, free from human exploitation, unnecessary pain and suffering, and premature death." It believes animals aren't property any more than humans are and asks if animal rights will become the "next great social justice movement." It cites President of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) David Weisbrot saying treating animals is increasingly becoming a social and legal issue as well as an important economic one.

Its members engage in direct action on behalf of animals, including removing them from laboratories and fur farms (they call liberation, not theft) and sabotaging animal testing and industry animal-based facilities. Its statements affirm it supports any acts that further animal liberation where reasonable precautions are taken not to endanger life. Its covert cells operate in dozens of countries clandestinely and independently of each other. In January 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated ALF a domestic terrorist threat.

Examples of Witch Hunt Convictions

Many can be cited, but Jeff Luers' case is typical. In June 2001, he was sentenced to 22 years, eight months for burning three SUVs to raise awareness of global warming and how these gas-guzzlers contribute to it. No one was hurt, $40,000 in damages resulted, and the vehicles were refurbished and subsequently sold. Jeff is a political prisoner, and his sentence exceeds that for murder, kidnapping and rape under Oregon law where he resides. He appealed in January 2002, the hearing was held in November 2005, and on February 14, 2007 the Appeals Court remanded his case to the Circuit Court for resentencing. The case was heard on February 28, 2008 after which his sentence was reduced to 10 years.

Josh Harper is another political prisoner who committed no crime. He's an activist believer in animal liberation, preserving the wilderness, and participated in human freedom projects for over 10 years. In 1997, he co-created Breaking Free Video magazine and went on speaking tours in 1999. He also sabotaged a whale hunt, defied grand juries, and contributed to confrontational protest campaigns. It made him a target and got him indicted for violating the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA).

Evidence at his trial was mostly from two of his speeches in 2001 and 2002. He spoke about already committed political sabotage acts as well as European anti-vivisection campaigns he supported. He also ended one speech by demonstrating how to participate in a form of electronic civil disobedience called "black faxing" that involves sending multiple black paper sheets through an opponent's fax machine. It got him arrested, charged and convicted.

He was one of six animal rights activists in the so-called SHAC 7 (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) case. Charges against one of the original 7 were dropped. SHAC is an international animal rights campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) - one of the world's largest contract research organizations, UK based, and operating on three continents. It's also Europe's largest contract animal-testing laboratory and uses around 75,000 animals each year in its operations.

UK-based activists established SHAC in 1999 and successfully closed down two animal-testing operations in their country. It's now a worldwide campaign, the first of its kind, and it operates in the UK, US, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy as well as many other countries. It calls its campaign "innovative" and states it doesn't "encourage or incite illegal activity."

On March 2, 2006, Harper and his co-defendants were charged and convicted of conspiracy to violate AETA (and several other charges) and got sentences of from four to six years. The case was an appalling miscarriage of justice for violating the defendants' First Amendment rights that AETA repealed for these activists. The defendants weren't charged with violent or threatening acts. Instead, the case was based on the notion that animal rights organizers are responsible for actions others take that the prosecution equated to a global conspiracy.

Briana Waters is another example of gross injustice. She's an innocent woman charged and convicted. On March 30, 2006, she was arrested and accused of being a lookout in connection with an alleged 2001 arson at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture. Waters is a California resident, violin teacher and mother of a young child. She was indicted, then reindicted with other defendants on May 10 on charges that included using a destructive device that carries a mandatory 30 year sentence.

On December 26, 2007, her lawyers filed a motion accusing the Justice Department of concealing vital exculpatory information as well as producing a fraudulent FBI report. The agency is infamous for creating "evidence" out of whole cloth and getting manipulated informants to state it. Nonetheless, a hostile federal judge denied defense's motion and went further as well. He ruled against allowing a defense expert to rebut government "evidence" that a delayed incendiary device was a bomb.

One of Waters' attorneys expressed outrage over a common federal practice of "The government hand-picking (the) judge (and) manipulating court procedures. This is a classic case of a corrupt prosecution, and a judge who apparently chooses to look the other way." It's no surprise at a time two-thirds of all federal judges are from or affiliated with the extremist Federalist Society. It advocates rolling back civil liberties; ending New Deal social policies; opposing reproductive choice, government regulations, labor rights and environmental protections; and subverting justice in defense of privilege.

Waters was up against this when her trial began on February 11, 2008. She was further disadvantaged by the government's case being based on two informants who struck a plea bargain by pleading guilty to conspiracy, arson and destructive devices in return for leniency. On March 6, Waters was convicted on two arson counts, but the jury deadlocked on the more serious charges of a destructive device and conspiracy. Despite

Politics of Green Scare (continued)

prosecution claims, no devices were found nor was there evidence of conspiracy. That raises serious questions of the government's falsifying evidence and lying to the jury about it. Again, no surprise under witch hunt justice with innocent people like Briana being harmed.

Her case also featured circumstantial evidence, including a folder containing radical pamphlets with a note on the cover from Waters to one of the informants. She testified that she didn't write them or subscribe to their views. The prosecution claimed otherwise. Her defence also argued that Waters knew nothing about the materials, they were substituted for ones she put in the folder, and her fingerprints weren't on the ones in it for proof.

Civil rights attorney Ben Rosenfeld said the "government's case was primarily based on character assassination and guilt by association (and that) evidence of other people's writings should never have been allowed to be used against her." He also denounced former Attorney General Gonzales for proclaiming Waters guilty in the media after she was indicted. He harmed her chances at the outset and showed convictions count more than justice, especially when charges of terrorism are raised. Waters strongly defends her innocence and will likely appeal the verdict. Sentencing is on May 30.

A Look Ahead

Post-9/11, future prospects look grim with fear prevailing over reason, a bipartisan effort exploiting it, and convictions more important than justice. If friends of the earth and animal rights champions are targeted, so can anyone. Governments today won't protect us and neither do courts that defer to their lawlessness. As a result, expect lots more innocent people hurt because those in power want unlimited amounts of it and won't let anyone stop them from getting it. It means hard times ahead when the law won't protect us, dissent is a crime, and the greater good is sacrificed to benefit the privileged.

What to do? Get active, organize, speak out, resist, and use the law for whatever justice is still under it. Things are very dire, change isn't coming next year, and, more than ever, apathy isn't an option. In America's "war on terrorism," we're all potential targets.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago and can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

What You Give Is What You Should Get

by Gary Yourofsky

Ever since Pythagoras promulgated peace to our planetary companions some 2,600 years ago, the animal rights community has utilized pacifism in its attempts to facilitate substantive change. As a proponent of education, my activism is no different. Each year I give around 250 lectures on ethical veganism to over 10,000 students explaining that victims of discrimination, slavery and murder come in all shapes and sizes. Many students thank me for removing their blinders and subsequently eliminate meat, cheese, milk and eggs from their diets. After all, consuming the cut-up corpses of murdered animals – and the things that ooze out of their bodies - is hardly an enlightened way of living.

However, author Sam Harris explained a major flaw with pacifism activism: "When your enemy has no scruples, your own scruples become another weapon in his hand. "So, while my lifestyle and lectures are based on compassion, those who refuse to stop harming animals force me to support 'eye for an eye' and 'by any means necessary' philosophies. In a world full of lying politicians and deceitful public relations, I hope you'll appreciate my willingness to unapologetically say what I'm about to say.

Empathy should only be reserved for innocent beings – human or nonhuman. Institutionalized violence doesn't simply vanish with a peaceful protest, a dose of logic and whole lotta love. If people continually deny animals their inherent right to be free, radical tactics are necessary and justified. Physically preventing an abuser from committing abuse and killing a murderer to stop the murder are noble, vicarious acts of self-defence.

This is why furriers - who anally-electrocute foxes or break the necks of mink - deserve the same treatment in return. The same goes for anybody who wears fur. If you pay someone to commit acts of cruelty, then you are complicit and, therefore, just as guilty.

Rapists, murderers and child molesters should be vivisected, executed and dissected, allowing researchers the opportunity to gather useful information that would actually benefit human health for a change. I see nothing wrong with capital punishment because if you willfully destroy someone else's life, then you automatically relinquish yours.

I believe in God but am vehemently opposed to organized religion and its attempts to sanctify cruelty in His name. Harming or killing animals is Satan's milieu. Christians, Jews and Muslims need to represent their faiths through peaceful compassionate living, not the barbaric tradition of meat-eating or the inane rituals of singing songs to the sky, growing long beards, covering the head in cloth or dipping each other in water.

The next two paragraphs can be found on my adaptt.org website in the *What's Wrong with PETA and HSUS* section. They're the reason why the USI administration canceled my lecture last year and why journalism Professor Chad Tew and his students fought to change school policy and bring me back. Tew knew I had a First Amendment right to speak on campus.

"Sometimes I think the only effective method of destroying speciesism would be for each uncaring human to be forced to live the life of a cow on a feedlot, or a monkey in a laboratory, or an elephant in the circus, or a bull in a rodeo, or a mink on a fur farm. Then people would be awakened from their soporific states and finally understand the horrors that are inflicted on the animal kingdom by the vilest species to ever roam this planet: the human animal!

Deep down, I truly hope that oppression, torture and murder return to each uncaring human tenfold! I hope that fathers accidentally shoot their sons on hunting excursions, while carnivores suffer heart attacks that kill them slowly. Every woman ensconced in fur should endure a rape so vicious that it scars them forever. While every man entrenched in fur should suffer an anal raping so horrific that they become disemboweled. Every rodeo cowboy and matador should be gored to death, while circus abusers are trampled by elephants and mauled by tigers. And, lastly, may irony shine its esoteric head in the form of animal researchers catching debilitating diseases and painfully withering away because research dollars that could have been used to treat them was wasted on the barbaric, unscientific practice of vivisection."

Gary Yourofsky is one of the nation's most outspoken and spirited activists. He has given 1,403 lectures in 27 states at 134 institutions to more than 35,000 students. You can peruse his adaptt.org website for more information, or contact him directly at GaryTofu@earthlink.net.

Some people need to be frightened by the way they live their lives. - Lobo Siete Truenos (shaman)

Group Ranks Iowa Second-most Painful State for Lab Animals

A national research watchdog group ranked Iowa second nationwide in its list of the "10 most painful states" for animals used in laboratories.

Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! based its rankings on U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Enforcement Reports for unrelieved pain in experimental animals.

According to the group, Iowa had 12,088 lab animals listed under the category of unrelieved pain and the state ranked highest in laboratory cats experiencing pain, with 190.

New York ranked first in the group's report, followed by Iowa, Maryland, Michigan and Georgia, Texas, Utah, Missouri, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The group's executive director, Michael Budkie, said the report released earlier this month was based on statistical compilation of 2006 data. More detailed reports about individual laboratories in the state take years for the USDA to release, he said.

Based on previous USDA reports, Budkie said, hamsters used in pharmaceutical testing were the primary animals to suffer unrelieved pain in labs. Nationwide, laboratory violations of the Animal Welfare Act, which regulates how labs conduct and report experiments, increased by 18.4 percent in one year and 90 percent in the last five years, he said.

The University of Iowa was among the top users of animals in experiments in Eastern Iowa, according to USDA reports from 2003. None of the 1,600 or so animals in that report were listed under the category of "unrelieved pain."

"It's been zero for years," said UI biology professor emeritus Richard Sjolund, chairman of the UI Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees all animal research at the UI. "They're not, in fact, at the University of Iowa."

Budkie said his group is not affiliated with the Animal Liberation Front, an animal rights organization that claimed credit for a 2004 break-in and vandalism to the UI's Spence Labs and Seashore Hall.

Netherlands: Sciencelink Animal Lab Has Been Abandoned

"This battle has been won by the Animal Rights Activists" - Lei Heldens, Councillor of Venray, Netherlands

The Coalition Anti-Vivisection is proud to announce that the massive Sciencelink animal testing laboratory project in Holland has been stopped for good thanks to a vociferous campaign!

Sciencelink was due to cost ?60 Million, ($90 Million/£50 Million), and was to have a purpose built breeding facility on the site to supply the animals, owned by Harlan (international animal breeders). A company who supply to HLS, other labs and universities in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

To put Sciencelink into perspective the new primate lab at Oxford University cost around £20 Million, (?26 Million/$40 Million), to build.

Not only has the project been abandoned but a senior director of Harlan resigned as a result. This is not only a great victory for the animals, it also represents a bitter blow to the animal testing industry as a whole!

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33 Reasons Vivisection is Pointless

1) Less than 2% of human illnesses (1.16%) are ever seen in animals.

(2) According to the former scientific executive of Huntingdon Life Sciences, animal tests and human results agree only "5%-25% of the time." (Flipping a coin would be more accurate.)

(3) 95% of drugs passed by animal tests are immediately discarded as useless or dangerous to humans.

(4) At least 50 drugs on the market cause cancer in laboratory animals. They are allowed because it is admitted the animal tests are not relevant.

(5) Procter & Gamble used an artificial musk despite it failing the animal tests, i.e., causing tumors in mice. They said the animal test results were "of little relevance for humans."

(6) When asked if they agreed that animal experiments can be misleading "because of anatomical and physiological differences between animals and humans," 88% of doctors agreed.

(7) Rats are only 37% effective in identifying what causes cancer to humans. (Again, flipping a coin would be more accurate.)

(8) Rodents are the animals almost always used in cancer research. They never get carcinomas, the human form of cancer, which affects membranes (e.g lung cancer). Their sarcomas affect bone and connecting tissue: the two cannot be compared.

(9) Up to 90% of animal test results are discarded as they are inapplicable to man.

(10) The results from animal experiments can be altered by factors such as diet and bedding. Bedding has been identified as giving cancer rates of over 90% and almost nil in the same strain of mice at different locations.

(11) Sex differences among laboratory animals can cause contradictory results. This does not correspond with humans.

(12) 9% of anaesthetized animals, intended to recover, die.

(13) An estimated 83% of substances are metabolized by rats in a different way to humans.

(14) Attempts to sue the manufacturers of the drug Surgam failed due to the testimony of medical experts that "data from animals could not be extrapolated safely to patients."

(15) Lemon juice is a deadly poison, but arsenic, hemlock and botulin are safe according to animal tests.

(16) Genetically modified animals are not models for human illness. The mdx mouse is supposed to represent muscular dystrophy, but the muscles regenerate without treatment.

(17) 88% of stillbirths are caused by drugs which are passed as being safe in animal tests, according to a study in Germany.

(18) 61% of birth defects are caused by drugs passed safe in animal tests, according to the same study. Defect rates are 200 times post-war levels.

(19) One in six patients in hospital are there because of a treatment they have taken.

(20) In America, 100,000 deaths a year are attributed to medical treatment. In one year 1.5 million people were hospitalized by medical treatment.

33 Reasons Vivisection is Pointless (continued)

(21) A World Health Organization study showed children were 14 times more likely to develop measles if they had been vaccinated.

(22) 40% of patients suffer side effects as a result of prescription treatment.

(23) Over 200,000 medicines have been released, most of which are now withdrawn. According to the World Health Organization, only 240 are "essential."

(24) A German doctors' congress concluded that 6% of fatal illnesses and 25% of organic illness are caused by medicines. All have been animal-tested.

(25) The lifesaving operation for ectopic pregnancies was delayed 40 years due to vivisection.

(26) According to the Royal Commission into vivisection (1912), "The discovery of anaesthetics owes nothing to experiments on animals." The great Dr Hadwen noted that "had animal experiments been relied upon...humanity would have been robbed of this great blessing of anaesthesia." The vivisector Halsey described the discovery of Fluroxene as "one of the most dramatic examples of misleading evidence from animal data."

(27) Aspirin fails animal tests, as does digitalis (a heart drug), cancer treatments, insulin (causes animal birth defects), penicillin, and other safe medicines. They would have been banned if vivisection were heeded.

(28) In the court case when the manufacturers of Thalidomide were being tried, they were acquitted after numerous experts agreed that animal tests could not be relied on for human medicine.

(29) Blood transfusions were delayed 200 years by animal studies, corneal transplants were delayed 90 years.

(30) Despite many Nobel prizes being awarded to vivisectors, only 45% agree that animal experiments are crucial.

(31) At least 450 methods exist with which we can replace animal experiments.

(32) At least thirty-three animals die in laboratories each second worldwide; in the UK, one every four seconds.

(33) The Director of Research Defense Society, (which exists to defend vivisection) was asked if medical progress could have been achieved without animal use. His written reply was "I am sure it could be known as the “Great Chain of Being” – used to position humans as the end to which all other beings were mere means.”

Scientific American: Feds Agree to Toxicity Tests That Cut Animal Testing

The NIH and EPA commit to exploring new technologies designed to phase out lab research on animals

By Larry Greenemeier

Rodents and primates around the world can breathe a little easier. Ditto animal rights activists who have long opposed testing drugs and conducting other experiments on animals. Top officials from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Thursday announced a five-year deal promising to share technology, information and other resources that will improve the toxicity testing of chemical compounds used in food, medicine and other products using robots rather than lab animals. This joint effort will include experts from the NIH National Toxicology Program (NTP), high-speed, automated screening robots at the NIH Chemical Genomics Center and computational toxicology capabilities available at the EPA Office of Research and Development's National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT).

"Today we want to report to you this remarkable collaboration," Elias Zerhouni, director of the NIH, said during a teleconference with reporters held to announce the groundbreaking agreement. He added that the effort—designed to expand the use of in vitro testing of human cells and cellular components to identify chemicals with toxic effects—represents the "birth of a new approach to a crucial problem in public health."

The agencies are hoping to coordinate their resources to better identify toxicity pathways, select chemicals for testing, analyze and interpret data, and promote their findings to scientific and regulatory communities. This is expected to generate data more relevant to humans, expand the number of chemicals tested and reduce the time, money and number of animals involved in current lab studies. The collective budget is yet to be determined, the agencies say.

Animal testing has always been a sore point for scientists and animal-rights advocates, following some high-profile cases of mistreatment of lab animals, such as monkeys discovered in 1981 at the Institute for Behavioral Research in Silver Spring, Md., in deplorable conditions. One of the primary ways to test the toxicology of a compound has been to inject it into a lab animal, see if the animal gets sick, and then conduct an autopsy to observe the damage done to their internal organs.

Scientists present at the news conference agreed that animal testing has yielded some important medical breakthroughs. But Robert Kavlock, director of the NCCT, said that it also is expensive, inefficient and is not always an accurate indicator of how a substance will affect humans.

"The desire here is to see if we could do better," said Francis Collins, director of the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute. He said the federal government is exploring the feasibility of using high-throughput assays to allow scientists to "look at toxicology in a totally new way."

"The news here is the capacity to test many thousands of compounds, something we haven't had until this collaboration," Samuel Wilson, acting director of the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and NTP, said at the press conference. The new research model would allow scientists to test 100,000 compounds in 1,500 different concentrations in about two days compared with years if the testing was done on animals. This sort of "high-throughput" testing will enable researchers to generate more data relevant to humans, and at the same time reduce the amount of animal experimentation. The cross-species extrapolation from animals to humans is "not always as precise as it should be," Wilson said. "This collaboration is a milestone because it gives us the ability to apply a new generation of approaches to determining toxicities."

The scientists were unable to provide a specific time frame for when the technology might produce significant results or predict how many fewer animals would be used in testing if their effort is a success. They stressed that they plan to move quickly to test the new technology and reduce animal testing as soon and as much as possible.

But they acknowledged that some animal testing will continue at least until the technology proves its mettle in large-scale studies or until Congress passes a substance regulation act similar to the European Union's (E.U.) Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals, or (REACH), which regulates chemicals and their safe use. It is set to take effect in March 2009 and bans such testing.

The officials noted that despite the E.U.'s pending ban, it is unclear whether scientists in Europe have access alternative methods of toxicology testing. Wilson noted that the technology being tested by the EPA and NIH is not yet available in the E.U. For now, NIH chief Zerhouni said, animal testing will continue in the U.S. in conjunction with the new

Feds Agree to Toxicity Tests That Cut Animal Testing (continued)

high-speed, automated screening technology. There are several other approaches under development that would also allow relatively quick, inexpensive testing of a large number of compounds and cells simultaneously. "We plan to use all of these," Christopher Austin, director of the NIH's Chemical Genomics Center, said at the news conference.

As ScientificAmerican.com reported in December, researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., the University of California, Berkeley, and Solidus Biosciences, Inc. (a biotech company located at the Rensselaer Incubator Program for start-up businesses) have developed biochips—called MetaChip and DataChip—that mimic what the body does when it ingests a drug. MetaChip is actually a glass slide dotted with 20-nanoliter droplets—each 20 billionths of a liter—of a solution containing human liver enzymes; DataChip is a slide lined with droplets containing cell cultures from the bladder, kidney or liver. Scientists can test the safety of a chemical by putting drops of it onto these slides and measuring the culture's growth or shrinkage over time.

These biochips are used with a high-throughput microarray spotter machine that places the liquid enzyme dots on the slides. The next step involves an optical assay system consisting of a camera connected to a fluorescent light source to take a digital image of the cell culture and highlight living and dead cells. Austin noted, however, that MetaChip and DataChip are not currently capable of handling the volume of testing that the government wants to conduct.

A Closer Look at the Green Scare

by Daniel McGowan
Published in the Earth First! Journal, 2007

There has been some discussion in radical circles—especially in the pages of the Earth First! Journal—about whether it is appropriate or accurate to use the term "Green Scare." The argument, as I remember it, is that this backlash against radical environmentalists and animal liberationists is too small or targets a population too narrow to constitute a "Green Scare" (see EF!J January-February 2007). Further, some argue that by using this term, we alienate potential supporters and activists from other movements (see EF!J May-June 2007). I've reflected on this for the last couple of months and also have had the opportunity to discuss the original letter with its author.

Ironically, I appear to have been one of the first people to use the term—in a 2000-2001 edition of a newsletter I worked on called "Spirit of Freedom." It's immaterial whether I coined it or not—many people in different places at different times coin phrases or come up with ideas. I used the term to describe what I saw in the Northwest at the time: an increasing federal interest in incidents claimed by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), greater demonization of activists who would not condemn ELF actions or would speak in support of them, many new bills being proposed to increase fines and sentences related to ELF and anti-genetic engineering actions, and a growth in the wise-use industry with the creation of Stop Eco-Violence—an "astro-turf" organization run by a former Public Relations hack for Louisiana Pacific logging. Since then, I have only seen more events living up to the term "Green Scare."

Arguing against the term, detractors point to the limited number of people that have been arrested or caught up in various legal cases, such as the SHAC 7, Operation Backfire and the Sacramento ELF prosecutions. While we are technically, looking at a number that is clearly not huge, we lose something when we start reducing lives to numbers. Consider that each defendant has a family, friends and is part of a community. The repercussions of these prosecutions extend way beyond the number of defendants. I have seen this myself, as my family struggles with ways to explain my absence to my three-year-old niece. My case has four individuals whom the FBI considers "fugitives from justice," going so far as to place "Most Wanted" posters for them on the "domestic terrorism" page of its website. How many people are affected by their absence and the harassment of the federal government in their attempts to arrest them? The impact of the Green Scare cannot be reduced to numbers.

The federal government has strange priorities and is incredibly concerned with the growth of the radical environmental and animal liberation movements. As things get worse in our society and as our demands for ecological sanity and compassion for animals gets ignored, many people inevitably lose faith in polite ways of affecting change and choose more radical methods. Knowing this, the government has used high-profile prosecutions like mine and the SHAC 7 case to spread fear, creating a serious chilling effect on our movements.

Let's look at some aspects of my case (Operation Backfire) that illustrate my point:

The initial arrests were conducted as part of a multistate operation that arrested seven people, subpoenaed activists and made a huge media splash about the apprehension of "domestic terrorists." The numbers would eventually grow to 14 arrests, four fugitives and one unindicted übersnitch named Jacob Ferguson.

The case was "cracked" with the creation of a Joint Terrorism Task Force based out of Portland, Oregon, with participants from many agencies—including the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Eugene Portland police and Oregon state police; the US Forest Service and more. An estimated 40 agents have been cited as working on this case.

Grand juries investigating this case cast a wide net, essentially serving as a fishing expedition for suspects. No one knows exactly how many people cooperated with them, only that one person did not and served six months in a crappy county jail for refusing to testify.

The prosecution overcharged all of the defendants, not only with absurd numbers of arson counts (such as one count for each vehicle, not each incident) but also with the dreaded 924(c) count: "use of a destructive device." This count has a mandatory 30-year sentence for one count and a mandatory life sentence for two. Who would want to gamble their life on that with a jury? We called this charge the "snitch maker." The cop who arrested me said, "924(c)? Yeah, that's what Chris McIntosh was charged with and look, he pleaded to eight years." The implication was that I should be smart, cut my losses and start cooperating.

The prosecution and media called us "ecoterrorists," "domestic terrorists" and, when they could get away with it, just plain old "terrorists." For example, immediately after my arrest, federal agents raiding my New York City apartment told my neighbors that they were investigating a "domestic terrorism" situation. Then-Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. Said in a national press conference about the case in January 2006, "Terrorism is terrorism, no matter what the cause."

The government argued for a "federal crime of terrorism" enhancement for eight of 10 defendants in my case. The legal definition of the enhancement was broad; if the judge thought our behavior was designed to coerce government behavior, we got it. I received it due to one sentence in the communiqué for an action I was involved in that referenced the Oregon and Washington legislatures. Many of us got this enhancement even for actions in which private businesses, not government agencies, were targeted. Despite not being charged with domestic terrorism charges, we nonetheless are now considered terrorists. The linkage of sabotage with terrorism in this case is a stunning legal and public relations victory for the government.

Wiretaps, suicide, snitches—is this starting to sound like a Green Scare to you?

The true effects of the Green Scare may not be felt for some time, but the fear is palpable in the Northwest. There seems to be very little resistance

Closer Look at the Green Scare (continued)

to ecological destruction in a region that was full of grassroots campaigns against old-growth logging for the past 30 years. On many occasions, I have heard how these cases have freaked people out. "Will I be prosecuted under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act?" "I've dug up a logging road. Will the government paint me as a terrorist?" When people are scared, they get paralyzed. They wring their hands and theorize about horrible outcomes to their activism. So, we need to look at these prosecutions as more than the government's line of "just catching people who break the law." If we let them scare us into inactivity, then this Green Scare will be successful for the corporations that continue to destroy the planet with impunity.

In writing about this topic, I have inevitably focused on Operation Backfire, as it's what I know the most about. To get the full grasp of the Green Scare, you have to look at the other cases: Eric McDavid, who is facing years in prison on a conspiracy charge orchestrated by a paid agent provocateur; Rod Coronado, who, after serving an eight-month sentence for a hunt sabotage (an unprecedented amount of time), is now fighting a 20-year "destructive device" charge for speaking about an incident he already served time for; the SHAC 7; and Tre Arrow, who is fighting extradition from Canada after having been charged with two ELF actions and who also faces the dreaded 924(c) charges, yet he asserts his innocence!

When discussing the appropriateness of the term, "Green Scare," maybe we need to really take a step back and have a frank look at the effects of these new laws and prosecutions. While it doesn't compare in scope to the red scares of the 20th century, does that make it any less relevant to us now? If people find the term to be an exaggeration, talk to them about the lives affected by the prosecutions, the campaigns disrupted and opportunities lost when we are organizing only around legal defense and not for proactive campaigns—to end old-growth logging, for instance.

If there is a bright spot to all of this, it's that, in its quest to destroy this movement, the government has succeeded in bringing a lot of people together. For that, I'm grateful. When it comes down to it, whether we use the term "Green Scare" isn't the point—it's that we acknowledge the impact these actions by the government and corporations have had on us and work for solutions to overcome them.

Never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way. ~~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

2008: 7.3 Million Americans Are Vegetarian
22.8 million follow a vegetarian diet.

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- The just-released "Vegetarianism in America" study, published by Vegetarian Times, shows that 3.2 percent of U.S. adults, or 7.3 million people, follow a vegetarian-based diet. Approximately 0.5 percent, or 1 million, of those are vegans, who consume no animal products at all. In addition, 10 percent of U.S., adults, or 22.8 million people, say they largely follow a vegetarian-inclined diet.

Data for this survey were collected by the Harris Interactive Service Bureau on behalf of Vegetarian Times. The poll surveyed 5,050 respondents, a statistically representative sample of the total U.S. population. Vegetarian Times commissioned RRC Associates, a research firm in Boulder, Colo., to perform the data analysis.

The 2008 study also indicates that of the non-vegetarians surveyed 5.2 percent, or 11.9 million people, are "definitely interested" in following a vegetarian-based diet in the future.

The study also collected data on age, gender and other demographic factors. Of the vegetarians surveyed:
-- 59 percent are female; 41 percent are male.
-- 42.0 percent are age 18 to 34 years old; 40.7 percent are 35 to 54; and 17.4 percent are over 55.
-- 57.1 percent have followed a vegetarian diet for more than 10 years; 18 percent for 5 to 10 years; 10.8 percent for 2 to 5 years, 14.1 percent for less than 2 years.

Monkey Boiled Alive At Research Lab
Chris Halsne, KIRO 7 Eyewitness News Investigative Reporter

A monkey, slotted to be used in a drug-product research experiment, was instead boiled alive inside an Everett laboratory, a KIRO Team 7 Investigation found. It's a deadly error, but not the first one KIRO Team 7 Investigators uncovered at SNBL USA.

That company is near the Boeing Plant off Merrill Creek Parkway in Everett. It houses around 2,000 primates and represents clients like Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly and Seattle Genetics.

Using hidden camera footage, Investigative Reporter Chris Halsne shows you inside a facility that's no stranger to federal animal care violations.

When it comes to scientific experiments, often the Cynomolgus Macaque monkey is the primate of choice. They weigh anywhere from about 3 to 25 pounds and make lots of barking noises. It's hard to image how anyone could miss one sitting inside a small cage.

In early November, SNBL employees set out to clean pens full of monkeys and, at times, their babies. Our hidden camera footage, taken inside SNBL headquarters, shows just how obvious it is to see and hear these animals jumping around in their enclosures. Despite that, KIRO Team 7 Investigators confirmed someone placed a wire kennel, with a healthy female macaque monkey still inside, into a giant rack-washer.

The 180-degree water, caustic foam and detergent killed the primate at some point during the 20-minute cycle.

Joanie McCully is a former Animal Care Supervisor for the SNBL. "I was sick to my stomach. It broke my heart because that is so avoidable and unnecessary, and I couldn't believe it. I wanted to vomit right there. I had other people calling me and saying, 'Did you hear?' They were in tears. It was just horrible, especially when they described her, foam coming out of her mouth and her gripping the bars of the cage. They had to peel her off of that cage. Yuck."

Monkey Boiled Alive (continued)

McCully is upset by what she calls a "long-standing disregard" for animal care at the Everett facility. As an example, she points to an e-mail from a veterinarian working at SNBL entitled "uh oh".

McCully asked the vet, "I heard about the monkey, pretty bad." The reply: "Oh yes- what a mess! Knew it was (g)oing to happen at some time - many close calls. Now all the paperwork – USDA and AAALAC. What FUN!"

McCully was floored by the reaction.

"When I inquired about it, the reply I got back was 'Oh, dear.' Think of the paperwork. That just upset me to my soul because no animal in there should die because of somebody's mistake or negligence or lack of compassion. "

McCully says she was recently fired after telling federal inspectors that some SNBL employees were abusing primates and failing to follow other US Department of Agriculture guidelines.

Her list of complaints include: employees carelessly spraying monkeys with acid and intentionally slamming primates on the floor. Why would they do that?

"Drop that cage from a standing position. Drop it. Monkeys would land on their heads in that cage and they'd (employees would) spin it around to confuse the monkey and get it all out of sorts. Then, (they'd) do the procedure. That way the monkey is cooperative."

The company, so far, has refused to speak with KIRO Team 7 Investigators about that allegation or a number of others listed in U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

We discovered the USDA opened a series of federal Animal Welfare violation cases against SNBL in 2005 after 19 marmoset monkeys died. An inspector noted "highly toxic agents were being injected into animals without the use of methods to relieve pain and distress."

The report also shows a number of "repeat non-compliance" issues, including recordkeeping so poor that inspectors couldn't tell if "the animals were receiving adequate veterinary care, or any veterinary care, before they died."

Primate medicine expert and veterinarian Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney quit SNBL about a year before the marmoset deaths.

She says there is no excuse to mistreat monkeys. Not only is it cruel, but it can distort human drug studies SNBL is paid millions to oversee.

Johnson Delaney told KIRO Team 7 Investigators, "If you're going to be causing pain and distress to an animal, first of all, it's against the Animal Welfare Act. Secondly, the science is going to be compromised. A stressed animal does not give you the data."

A Japanese conglomerate, Shin Nippon Biomedical, owns the Everett research center. It did not respond to KIRO Team 7 Investigators regarding the animal welfare record if its subsidiary.

McCully says remaining silent about dead, sick, or abused primates will not make the ongoing federal investigation go away.

"If you can't put yourself in the monkey's place or that mouse's place or that rat's place, you don't need to be there. You don't need to be there. If you don't have that compassion, this isn't the job for you."

A USDA spokesperson confirmed to Halsne that SNBL is on what that the agency calls the "risk list." It's a special category where inspectors visit more often than once a year, as required by law. That agency also tells Halsne, 'You get on the risk list by having a pattern of non-compliance.'

The USDA confirmed to KIRO Team 7 Investigators that its inspectors are aware of the scalded monkey incident. That agency has no other comment until that investigation is complete.

We contacted SNBL repeatedly over the past week. Late Thursday, our station received an e-mail. It says- in part:

"One of the monkeys used in our research died in an unfortunate accident. It was the first accidental death of a monkey in our care in eight and a half years."

The company also states that it has been told "that the last [USDA] investigation in November contained no violations."

If you want to tell the USDA your thoughts about the treatment on the monkeys mentioned in this story, contact APHIS. the billions of land animals consumed, humans also kill and consume 85 billion marine animals (17 billion in the US).

Pacifism is generally considered to be a morally unassailable position to take with respect to human violence. … While it can seem noble enough when the stakes are low, pacifism is ultimately nothing more than a willingness to die, and to let others die, at the pleasure of the world's thugs. It should be enough to note that a single sociopath, armed with nothing more than a knife, could exterminate a city full of pacifists. … Here we come upon a terrible facet of ethically asymmetric warfare: when your enemy has no scruples, your own scruples become another weapon in his hand. - The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason by Sam Harris

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

More than 40 anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office since our last newsletter, 30 of which come from Mexican cells of the Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico, the Mexican ALF. There were a number of actual liberations, as well as continued support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from some of the messages received :

January 20, 2008
On the night of January 20 the Animal Liberation Front Mexico (F.L.A.M.) placed an incendiary device in an establishment of this multinational corporation that continues the killing of our animal brothers and sisters on their farms of terror for filthy money that comes at the cost of the suffering of others. These actions are just the beginning of what the animal rights guerillas can do.

[Spanish: La noche del 20 de Enero el Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (F.L.A.M) coloco un dispocitivo incendiario en el establecimiento de una multinacional que sigue asesinando a nuestros hermanos animales en sus granjas del terror para seguir pudriendose en dinero acosta del sufrimiento de los demas. Estas acciones son solo el comienzo de lo que la guerrilla afavor de los derechos de los animales puede hacer.]

January 21, 2008
On the evening of December 20, 2007, the glass entry door of Salt Tavern in Baltimore was destroyed by pellet gun fire. This restaurant makes profit from the misery of tortured ducks and geese, otherwise known as foie gras. Stop selling it and we'll go away. Keep profitting from misery, we'll be visiting again soon.

January 24, 2008
A Wendy's restaurant advertisement for their new stack attack mega-burger in London, Ontario was subverted by activists Jan. 22nd 2008
Happy Holidays, ALF

January 30, 2008
Monday night (jan 28, 2008) we payed another visit to 180 La Pata in San Clemente, CA. We redecorated with bright yellow paint and glued some locks. As Phenomenex continues to be a supplier we will continue to stop by. We used yellow paint just for you Farrajoulah. We figured that with all of this rain you might have been missing those gorgeous sunsets from that Palos Verdes estate that we a familiarizing ourselves with. See you there soon. (You won't see us.) Drop HLS just like all of the wise ones have.

Tuesday night (jan 29, 2008) we payed another visit to 1014 Hillcrest, Inglewood CA. We redecorated with black paint and glued the locks. Hubnet, you are still working with HLS so we are still watching. We also hit the little blue Hubnet van out front with some paint. We didn't expect to see it out there otherwise it would have gone up in flames. Cut those HLS ties or you'll hear from us again. Count on it.

In solidarity with those who put on the black ski masks and acted on Phenomenex in the Uk this week and for the animals suffering inside of Huntingdon Life Sciences.

February 4, 2008
On February 1, the speciest and filthy carnivores woke to find all the windows and walls of two (one meat and the other seafood) restaurants completely covered by paint, 'Meat = Murder' was the mark of the Animal Liberation Front - Commando Green Black (FLA-CVN) together with other cells. We have been attacking those who get rich at the expense of pain, agony and suffering of their fellow beings.

These actions are carried out by a collective of radical activists in the FLA, in response to so much torture of our brothers and sisters. This fight is by and for the animals, we avenge and liberate them. We will not abandon the trenches of the underground; we will keep moving forward. Until all are free! FLA-CVN Mexico

[Spanish: El 1 dia de febrero, los especistas y mierda carnivora desperto y encontro todos los vidrios y las paredes de 2 (uno de carne y otro de mariscos) restaurantes totalmente pintados, Carne = Asesinato ha sido la consignia que como Frente de Liberacion Animal-Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) junto a otras celulas, hemos estado atacando comercios que se enriquesen a costa del dolor, agonia y sufrimiento de sus semejantes.

Estas acciones llebadas acabo por activistas radicales conglomerados en el FLA, ha sido en respuesta a tanta y tanta tortura hacia nuestr=s herman=s, esta lucha es por y para los animales, venguemoslos y liberemoslos. No dejaremos nuestras trincheras desde la clandestinidad y las llevaremos a un grado mas alto. Hasta que todos sean libres!

February 5, 2008
Recently, concerned citizens rescued 47 rats who were apparently part of a breeding program at Scripps "Mercy" Hospital in the Hillcrest area of San Diego. We entered through an unlocked door and found these beautiful innocent creatures living in squalor. Eight were crammed into each tiny barren cage. Their white fur was matted in urine and feces. Their babies were to be stolen from them and tortured in useless experiments, but now they are in loving homes where they will spend the rest of their lives as individuals, rather than research tools to be discarded when no longer necessary.

Who are the terrorists in this situation: those who peacefully rescue neglected beings from abuse and cruelty, or those who terrify, torture and destroy innocent life? This recuse is dedicated to the brave people who speak out and more importantly act in support of direct action and rescue.

"In this sick culture, we know that every day the sick, the stupid, and the EVIL bully and destroy those who are far their better. Every lab, farm and fur animal; every poisoned wild bird; every beaten child, every raped woman knows this. - ALF"

February 6, 2008
Animal Liberation Front - Commando Green Black (FLA-CVN)
We decided to carry out multiple sabotages to businesses that get rich through the suffering, torture and murder of our brother and sister animals, in the town of Tultitlan in Mexico State. This time we sabotaged 13 locks of different shops,"pet" stores, butchers, rotisserie restaurant, aquariums and 1 Bachoco store.

The owners of these speciest businesses found the mark of Animal Liberation on their storefronts and could not open all day and we do not know when they will. If they do not close, we will close them. If they do not stop, neither will we!

[Spanish: El Frente de Liberacion Animal- Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) nos decidimos a llevar a cabo multiples saboteges a los comercios que se enriquesen del sufrimiento, la tortura y el asesinato de nuestros herman=s animales, ahora en el municipio de Tultitlan en el Estado de Mexico. Esta vez saboteamos 13 cerraduras de diferentes comercios, como tiendas de "mascotas" Carnicerias Rosticerias Acuarios y
1 tienda Bachoco

los dueños de estos negocios especistas encontraron la consignia de Liberacion Animal en sus fachadas y no pudieron abrir durante todo el dia y no sabemos hasta cuando. Si ellos no cierran,nosotr=s lo cerraremos, si ell=s no se detienen nosotr=s tampoco! FLA-CVN]

February 9, 2008
Solidarity with the Spanish campaign against Novartis: Very early in the morning of February 9 activists from Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (FLAM) acted in solidarity with the campaign in Spain against laboratory animal experiments at Novartis, who is a partner of the hated and repugnant HLS. 12 locks of several pharmacies that sell Novartis products were glued, thus demonstrating a little support to the animal liberation movement in that country. We wait for news soon of actions from the ALF in Spain. The fight against HLS and their dirty partners will continue in all countries where there are animal liberation activists. Until they sink!"

[Spanish: Solidaridad con la campaña española contra Novartis: Muy temprano por la mañana del 9 de febrero activistas del Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (FLAM) salimos a solidarizarnos con la campaña de acciones que se llebo a cabo en España el 8 y 9 de Febrero contra el laboratorio de experientacion animal Novartis y quien es un socio mas del odiado y repugnante HSL; esta vez 12 cerraduras de varias farmacias que venden productos de Novartis fueron celladas, demostrando asi un poco de apoyo al movimiento de Liberacion Animal de ese pais, esperamos que noticias de acciones de los FLA`s españoles se den a conocer pronto. La lucha contra HSL y sus sucios socios se deve dar en todos los paises en donde existan activistas por la Liberacion Animal. Hasta que se hundan! FLAM

February 21, 2008
Edyth London, you and your work are deplorable. You are given paychecks in exchange for addicting primates, the closest kin that the human species knows, to numerous sickeningly addicting drugs like crystal meth. For forcing these innocent and sensitive beings to suffer through a type of hell that they would never encounter if it wasn't for your deranged science you deserve to know true justice.

This is why on February 3rd 2008 we left an incendiary device at your house at 1246 Shadybrook in Beverly Hills. Edyth, the fire that night was exactly ther size we wanted it to be. It was just a little outreach because we want to see you make the sound ethical choice to stop vivisecting primates. We know what we are doing and fires can be much larger.

Edyth, your secrets are very ugly and the spotlights on them are getting brighter. The LA Times says that you plan to expand mad science to include teenage human beings. They also pointed to the fact that you torture monkeys and Phillip Morris picks up the tab. The LA Times didn't ask but we will, "Do you get rich while animals (and soon humans) suffer all in the name of making tobacco products more addicting?"

You make us sick and you inspire us into action Edyth. As each day begins and nothing that you own is burning consider yourself lucky. Now is the time to stop vivisecting. We don't back down. Ever.
-the Animal Liberation Front

March 4, 2008
It is already known that the Frente de Liberacion Animal (FLA/ALF) has as its objective (in addition to causing economic damages to animal abusers) the rescue and liberation of animals from the clutches of the speciesist murderer. Lamentably the tools that are used by the FLA are illegal by law and by the established order that considers animal liberation activists to be terrorists.

As the Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (FLAM) we feel that if to save animals from being mistreated, tortured, persecuted, hunted, imprisoned and murdered is to be a terrorist, then that is what we are and we love it!

Throughout history all the progress of civilization has come from attacks against laws and each liberator has been listed as an illegal; this is why as a militant, clandestine group, we put our freedom at stake to avenge and give freedom to other living beings victimized by the ego-centrism and the degenerated feelings of the human animal influenced by capitalist, neo-liberal globalization.

The sun has already been hidden a thousand times, said the duck, while he watched the cars pass. He watched the people stop and with feelings of pity say: What a pretty imprisoned duck; the sad duck sleeps with no one for company, without knowing what it is to be truly free, waking every morning and looking at the sky, admiring his bird brothers and sisters flying from one side to the other. They stop in the trees and look for food; he listens to them singing happy songs; he dreams that some day freedom will arrive and pining to go from the cage where he is shut away, the body will mend itself from this monotony.

On the night of March 2, while he was sleeping, he heard noises. Some humans dressed in black, with ski masks covering their faces approached. They jumped a gate; the duck quacked saying Free me immediately I don't want to be here! The humans wrapped him with a blanket, put him in a box and they carried him away.

The duck, watching through the holes in the box, did not know what was passing before his eyes, but surely it was something good, so he wasn't nervous. Soon the cage was opened and he saw the great sun which he always watched, looking at the rest of his brothers and sisters flying, feeding himself on what they had around them. He saw water in a much greater quantity than the little that he saw before in his dirty plate of food. The environment had a distinct aroma, the air moved his feathers, his legs touched the moist earth and at last he felt free. He fluttered his wings with great force, vigor and happiness and now this duck, hoping to be rescued and released, that had been disappointed by the cowardice of those who shout 'Animal Liberation' and do nothing for them, is free at last. Is direct action useless? Ask the duck. FLAM

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jonathan Paul #07167-085
FCI Phoenix
Federal Correctional Institution
37910 N 45th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
FTC OKLAHOMA CITY
P.O. BOX 898801
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73189

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers #13797671
CRCI 9111
NE Sunderland Ave
Portland, OR 97211-1708

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Re-sentenced to 10 years!

Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher #36360-086
FCI Dublin
5701 8th Street- Camp Parks- Unit F
Dublin, CA 94568

Nathan "Exile" Block #36359-086
FCI Lompoc
3600 Guard Road
Lompoc, CA 93436

Unrepentant eco-warriors convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of their co-defendants, both are currently serving 7 years 8 months and are scheduled for release in 2012.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- **Released!**

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Kevin Olliff #G12113
NKSP B-1-A (104)
PO Box 4999
Delano, CA 93216

Jailed February 2008 on theft-related charges. Committed animal rights activists who has organized against HLS.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

Volume 4, Number 3: July 2008

InThis Issue:

- **An Interview with Ashanti Alston** by Anarchist People of Color (APOC)
- **Obstructionists: Identifying and Handling Them** from No Compromise Issue 4
- **We Have A Dream** By Animal Liberationists Worldwide
- **2 Years for Rescuing Dog, ALF Rescue More Animals in Retaliation** by Will Potter
- **The new vegetarianism: meat is more murderous than ever** by John Harris, The Guardian
- **Vivisection: Scientists Use 6% More Animals For Research** by James Randerson
- **Direct Action Since the Last Issue**
- **Prisoners**

After recent attacks against vivisectors who abuse, torture and kill animals inside laboratories in Santa Cruz, California, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offered $2500 of donor's money to add to the reward offered for the arrest of those liberationists who participated in the actions. Only last year People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was discovered regularly killing healthy, homeless dogs and cats and tossing their bodies in trash dumpsters. Yet millions of people who purport to care about animals send these two organizations tens of millions of dollars every year. Tens of millions of dollars wasted on expensive office buildings, six-figure salaries, millions of trinkets mailed with fundraising letters and ridiculous lettuce costumes; tens of millions of dollars that could be funding a serious struggle for animal liberation.

Alternatively, despite its persistent and growing success, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office operates on a few thousand dollars a year, donated by individuals who know every dime of their donation is used by unpaid volunteers to spread the message that animal liberation is an attainable goal, but a goal that requires the complete commitment of increasing numbers of animal liberationists. A vitally important message of the Press Office, that is now being heard by millions, is that animal liberationists have noble goals and a long history of fighting for animal liberation. Furthermore, these animal liberationists use the very same tactics that have been successfully used in all the important liberation struggles throughout history.

More and more animal liberationists are stepping forward to directly save the lives of animals by removing them from conditions of immense suffering and pain. They're also making it increasingly difficult for humans to exploit, torture, and murder innocent animals and continue doing business as usual. POM Wonderful Juice company no longer cuts the penile arteries of rabbits and force feeds them their juice, 30 fewer non-human primates are being tortured and then experiencing miserable deaths at the hands of UCLA vivisector Dario Ringach, who quit animal experimentation after his colleagues were attacked by liberationists; and hundreds of suppliers and customers have stopped funding Huntingdon Life Sciences as a direct result of liberationists' actions. Tell the animals still imprisoned and being brutalized that another hundred years of polite protests and letter writing campaigns might one day alleviate their suffering. Or, as liberationists have said, get busy out there and make a real difference for the animals.

And go ahead, send that $20 every month to PETA so their mortgage payment gets made on time, or that $40 to HSUS so Wayne Pacelle can cash his six-figure paycheck. Or find a way to really help the animals languishing in laboratory cages, waiting for a human to grab them, strap them into a metal device, insert electrodes into their brain or poison them with nicotine or methamphetamines. Help that chained dog get a new lease on life with someone who has the compassion to really care for her. Cut the fences that condemn millions of mink and foxes to anal electrocution and skinning so some rich white woman can make her sadistic fashion statement.

If you truly cannot do what needs to be done, then consider supporting the Press Office and other serious, liberation organizations. To find out how you can donate once or monthly, drop as an email or give us a call. For the animals.

This newsletter is published quarterly, and is free of charge by:

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Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defence of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

An Interview with Ashanti Alston

by Anarchist People of Color (APOC)

Team Colors: To begin, could you speak about some of your early life experiences and how they have affected you?

Ashanti: I'm from Plainfield, New Jersey and I was born 1954. I come out of a Baptist and Hebrew family. There was a split in the church at one point, so my family was basically Hebrews, they didn't call themselves Jews. My father and others decided that they wanted to be Baptists, so my father and his family became Baptist. But my mother's side is still Hebrew. So I come from that kind of background and I still got both in me. I'm the baby of the family. I, a lot of times, blame my family for who I became; they claim they don't know. I'm like "Listen, you all loved me and stuff…" Coming up, my father was a Baptist minister, and my family's always the type that would be helping people. [My father's] ministering to people, and I really admired him, and we're always helping people.

So the '60s came along and I'm seeing the Civil Rights movement stuff, and I'm curious. I was already struggling to understand Malcolm X when the '67 rebellions happened in Plainfield. People took over the community. That was profound. It was profound also to see the National Guard come in with troops and tanks, took it back over, and they took it over kind of brutal. That was my entry. I wanted to be one of them black revolutionaries. After that I was reading everything I could.

I wasn't a great reader, but I was struggling with Malcolm X autobiography. The more I struggled through Malcolm X, the more I understood. I flipped from page to page. I didn't read it cover to cover. I got little bits here and there. And at the same time here's Plainfield, here's the news, here's what's going on in Africa, and the anti-Vietnam war stuff. So we found ourselves in junior high school fighting for black history — there was no

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

black history. There was two junior high schools in my hometown, and at both junior high schools, led by Plainfield High School, the black students left and marched down to City Hall and demanded black history. By the next school year we had black history. So black power — a la Stokeley Carmichael, H. Rap Brown — had us trying to understand self-determination. How to implement black power in the schools. Winning black history was the first sweet taste of that.

By '69/'70, me and my best friend David (who was then Stagoles and is now Jihad Mumit) started finding out about the Black Panther Party, and we wanted to know more about them. We all respected Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement, but that non-violent resistance, we couldn't get with it. So something more aggressive was for us. I mean, black power was aggressive, but the Black Panther Party was openly saying, "We're arming ourselves; we're going to do all this, but we're going to do this with arms." We wanted to find out more about the Black Panther Party…

Plainfield, New Jersey is a small town in New Jersey between New Brunswick and Newark. So we would go travel to Newark, Jersey City, and then to New York to the different chapters; talk to people, pick up papers. Sometimes they would let us attend political education classes. When it became more frequent they'd let us sell papers at a certain point. Then when we had enough folks that we thought we could do a chapter, they actually helped us start a chapter. It was a whole process though, it wasn't simple. They had to work with us.

At a certain point, like from junior year in high school going into senior year, we had an office, we had another storefront, we had a free clothing program, we had helped tenants organize against landlords, we was on the streets every night in the most crime-ridden areas of Plainfield's black community and in the high schools doing party work. There was a black student union in the high school. Stagoles (David Bryant, and now Jihad Mumit) was part of the leadership. So we was pretty effective. But then the cop gets killed, and they tried to pin that cop on me and Stagoles, as we were the main organizers of the Plainfield Black Panther Party. From there it was being in jail for like 14 months. The last four months was the trial, and everything came out in the trial. Our lawyers showed the typical frame up stuff and actually convinced an all white jury — and we didn't think that was going to happen either — that we were innocent. When the decision came down in the end, we didn't think that they was gonna do that, but they acquitted us. But all during that time, our mindset was like, "We wasn't scared" — we were prepared. Because we knew what happened to Huey Newton, we knew what happened to Fred Hampton just two years before, maybe just a year and a half before. Panthers [were] getting framed in other places, so we knew it could happen to us too. So all during that time, it's like we were educating ourselves, trying to get out of this jail.

This was in '71, 14 months, we got out in 1972; we got arrested in October '71, just one month into our senior high school year. So when we got acquitted the police was making threats, so our families wanted us out of Plainfield. So I went down south to Greensboro, North Carolina and David went to Rochester, New York. I stayed down there for 6 months, and then I'm back. And then we're re-organizing the chapter. But at the same time we had lost a lot of members; Newark, Jersey City, New York chapters lost a lot of members. At a certain point I was back and forth between New York and New Jersey. At some point there was Panthers who were also Black Liberation Army (BLA) members who were facing the death penalty in California, but they was locked up in New York accused of a San Francisco police department ambush. So I was approached to become a part of the BLA, specifically to get them out before they were shipped back to California.

So I'm like 18/19. My girlfriend, who was also a member of the Panther Party in my hometown, she was pregnant. So for me, I had a lot of thinking to do. I'm 18/19, I still want to be around for this child, I'm still feeling like 'I'm ok. I'm getting ready to be a daddy,' but was still feeling like we could make this revolution happen. Even though it was clear that movements in general were on the decline; the FBI and all that stuff was doing their job and we were losing support, people were backing away from us. But we felt, too, that with what we understood of guerrilla warfare… you know, it's kind of like the foco theory with Che and Regis Debray, the guerrillas can help bring that movement back. So we felt like maybe we could— from the underground —help to fortify them chapters that were still functioning. Help to bring other people back if we could bring up the spirit of people. This is in '72/'73.

At some point I came back to them and said "I'm ready to join," and I brought one of my comrades with me; he was about a year younger than me. I was 19 and he's about 18 or 17 years old. So here we are getting integrated into the BLA, but at that time we're still doing above-ground work and underground-work. For me, it was helping to keep the Harlem office open — with Nat Shanks, Bernice Jones, Frankie Ziths and others — making sure the breakfast program is running, keeping the office functioning with people coming in and out, and then also doing the work in my hometown. But as the underground cell got more into our work, then it was mainly doing more underground than above, trying to prepare to get these folks out of the Manhattan House of Detention — the Tombs.

So we had a couple of plans. None of them worked, but we tried. One plan was, we had word that there was a tunnel that led up under the Manhattan House of Detention. So we went to the area where the information said you could lift up a manhole cover and go down, and we did that. There was no tunnel. But it was the wee hours in the morning down in the court area. Some John Q Citizen saw these black folks down there and called the police. So while one of the members was coming up out of the sewer, here the police come and arrest us. They don't quite know who we are yet, or what we're up to. But when they do find out who we are, front page— I think it was the Daily News, or one of them —they called us 'the sewer rats.' They called us BLA sympathizers and they thought we was trying to get into the building right outside the sewer. The building outside the sewer was the Department of Corrections building, where they have all the files of all the prisons in upstate New York. So that's where they figured we was going; we just got some good information, I wish we knew that. But the only thing they could really charge us with was tampering with city property. So they had us in Rikers Island, and then they let us out on our own recognizance. They eventually just dropped the charges. We went right back to work.

We had to figure another way to get them out. They were the 'New York 5' at the time and they was on trial for some ambush in New York. Everyday we were allowed to bring them food. Bringing them food meant that after they was brought from court (the court was in the same building that the jail was in), we would bring a bag of food— we gave it to the guard, they checked the food and passed it over to the prisoners. So everyday we're signing the log sheet, who we are and everything, take the food, and have a little chit-chat. But on this particular day we had already figured out we would have to go in with an acetylene torch and cut a hole in this metal wall where the visiting room is. It was like a solid metal wall, glass window, telephone and you talk through the telephone. So on the day that we went in, when we to pass over the food, we didn't quite pass it over; we opened up the bag like we was going to let them examine it, but we pulled out our weapons. We locked the guards up in the bathroom, went to the visiting room floor and commenced the cutting. I was the one who was cutting, but I wasn't an experienced cutter. By the time I almost had it all cut, the oxygen tank ran out. There was about two inches to go and I couldn't cut no more. On the places where the metal was hot and dripping it would kinda almost re-seal. So we couldn't kick it. One of the sisters wanted to shoot it. We just had to like look at them behind the walls and say "we gotta go." But if we would've been successful, we would have had four BLA soldiers out, and probably all the other prisoners who was out for visits at that time too. They would've probably came out too. But as easy as it was for us to go in and do it, it was as easy to get out of there. So we planned it pretty good.

The thing we had going for us was their arrogance of power. They would have never thought some black folks would dare to come up in there and attack in the inside of their fortress. So we knew we had that. So after that we're fully underground — this was in '74, the sewer thing was at the end of '73. The attack on the Tombs was April 17, 1974.

During the course of a bank expropriation in New Haven Connecticut,

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

during the shootout, three of us were captured. So that's when we got time. I ended updoing a little over 11 years, and once I got out I ended up doing 10 months for a parole violation. I guess that's the beginning — it's like, I learned through practice. I was always encouraged to read and always encouraged to practice. The Panther Party's whole thing was theory and practice, theory and practice.

When I look back on it, I'm like, you know, yeah, we was young and inexperienced, but we also understood that we gonna learn as we go. We read a lot of Mao Te-sung and we had his Little Red Book, so there's all kinds of really great quotes. One of them that a lot of us followed was that, he would say, "A fall in the pit is a gain in the wit," and he would say too, "Fight, fail, fight until you win." There was this whole thing that about, you don't have to everything perfect. You don't have to have the theory perfect before you act. And I think this was Che Guevara too, it's like act and in the process you will learn. You got theory, that will change too as you go, you will learn more instead of you just sitting back theorizing. That's how I learned. For me that was some of the most important stuff I learned in the Panther Party: you don't have to wait.

Team Colors: So what year were you sentenced?

Maybe '75. The bank thing was two trials. The bank itself was federal, and the two cops that were shot were State of Connecticut. So we had two trials, we had the Federal trial first, and then we had the State trial.

Team Colors: So by '74 and '75 mass movements are starting to wane. Around that time the New York City fiscal crisis is starting as well. You're directly involved in militant organizing at a time when mass movements are waning and the City is going into crisis, which meant that things in New York are really tough. What was your experience around that — and the decomposition of that movement — coming from a revolutionary moment?

It was not only that that I remember, but it was also when the oil prices that shot up from the Arab nations' oil embargo. I remember that so clear. But for us too, because our support base was not there anymore, it meant we had to do a lot more expropriations. Even the expropriations, we had to have money for places that we were living, for food and transportation. Those sources that we generally had were drying up; either into legal stuff, or to people who was getting so intimidated that they was just backing up. But one of the good things about living collectively was even during the economic crisis, collective living is one of the best things you can do. You're sharing expenses and cutting down on so much, because you're living in what we called "Panther Pads" or "Underground Pads." Your expenses is like really down. You can't afford to get extravagant, you can't afford to buy any luxuries, even if that luxury is a bottle of wine, though sometimes that happened. But that's pretty much how I remember dealing with that.

It's like when all around you see that people are really suffering. I just [as of this interview] came back from Florida, and so I went to their library and I'm going through the New York Times. I was reading this one article dealing with the BLA. The police had came across this one house in Brooklyn that was probably a pad, and it had a lot of weapons in it. They got wind of it, raided it and got the weapons. It was interesting that the person who wrote the article interviewed people in the neighborhood. A lot of people in the neighborhood were saying that the newspapers were going to blame it on the BLA anyhow. But people were saying that, "Yeah they may blame it on the Black Liberation Army, but look at what's going on." And they was talking about no jobs, all this other stuff. And that they could make that connection with what the BLA was trying to do. I said, yeah I remember so much of that, when I tell people that there was times where it felt like the community was backing us.

They backed the Black Panther Party, but the BLA was a little harder because we wasn't just defensive anymore, now we're going on the offensive. It was like when them police was getting hit for shooting people in our community, people did understand; or if they heard about these bank expropriations and stuff, you know, people did understand. Even though it was at the end of a movement, I think people still had enough feeling of community and struggle to kind of put some context to it. So, I think it helped in the sense that when the community was going through some struggles, they didn't just dismiss the Panther Party or BLA, even though like… this is in 1973, even in'73 it was rough. Seventy-three and '74 even financially, it was rough. The community was going through a lot. It was probably a high point in bank expropriations in general, not just [for the] BLA. But everybody seemed to have been hitting the banks, everybody seemed to have been doing stickups. Because it called for something. So, a lot of that is the type of stuff I remember.

Team Colors: On an emotional level, what was it like to be involved in militant activity while larger movements are waning?

Knowing that we were suffering? I think we knew things was falling apart after the death of George Jackson in August, '71. A lot of the Left didn't support us anyhow. Weather Underground folks did, folks that were in that tendency within the Students for a Democratic Society, the Nationalist groups always supported, especially BLA. I think always had critical support for the Panthers because of the fact that we were dedicated to the black community. But damn man, it was like, with the arrests, with the shoot-outs, with the media constantly bombarding the community; newspapers was like '"we're thugs, we're murderers," we're all of these things. It had some effect. I mean people was like buying into that stuff obviously. But some of the stuff that the FBI and the local police, like New York City had the Red Squads, stuff that they were doing, who knew? We said we knew, we said, but the reliance on mass media was still there. It was like this ideological battle on that level. We was losing that, and that was a big part of what was drying up our support. And plus the fact that when the police was coming in the community and so-called looking for us, they would terrorize a whole neighborhood. Like, when they was looking for Assata and stuff, it wasn't just one person. They would make sure, if it was a [housing] project, they're gonna make everyone in that project pay. They're gonna harass everybody. So the thing would be "See what the Panther's are causing, see what the BLA is causing, bringing down on us." So all of that was happening.

Like I said before, we studied guerrilla warfare, we look at the North Vietnamese. The guerrilla warfare going on in Vietnam, we looked at the guerrilla struggles going on in Asia, Latin America. We were highly motivated by the Tupamaros, Carlos Marighela's For the Liberation of Brazil, Regis Debray's Revolution in the Revolution. We was looking at the guerrilla movements in Quebec, Italy, Germany, and Ireland for their urban examples. And it's like all of them had their ups and downs. So we figured 'ok, this is a down for us but we gotta figure out a way to bring it up.' So like the foco theory? I do think that we was definitely influenced by the foco. Like, maybe if we can survive, maybe we can begin to have victories from the underground that keep people motivated. I mean, I don't think we ever believed that we could lead it. But it was like, 'we can inspire people just to see that we can still keep this system vulnerable, we can still show people it's possible to strike and they can't catch us, we can embarrass them, we can use armed propaganda, we'll fund ourselves, we'll hit them banks, all of that. Even with them dope dealers, we knew that hitting them dope dealers we weren't just destroying their drugs, we were getting their monies too, which we would try to funnel into programs and different stuff like that. It was all with hope, maybe naïve, but it was all with the hope that we could keep it going.

But like '72-'76 we suffered a lot of losses from people being captured, killed or shut down in other ways; a lot of people just had to split. A lot of people they just had to lay low. Sometimes laying low also meant that you may not ever have gotten back to where you were going to be functioning again, because there was so much chaos and paranoia. The Split (in the Black Panther Party), I think, played a big part in terms of who you could trust. After the Split, it was like comrades that you knew who sided with the other side, you didn't know anymore if you could go to them now as BLA and say "hey, we need this, we need that." You tended to trust those who you were closer to. So, it was a rough period, it was rough. I think it put a lot of tension on our relationships. I remember one time underground we

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

were getting low on monies. The men wanted to go to get some wine, there was one strong sister in particular, with real strong feminist politics, who was like "y'all can't do that." And we talked her down, and went out and did it anyhow, because we wanted to loosen up. It did create tension within our group that the type of things like that was happening. Or you know, you're pressing things to do stuff when it was a little bit uncertain about if we had everything in place. But like, yo, if it doesn't look good, back up; why must our machismo make us still do it anyhow? I think when things like that happened was when we made some real mistakes and people either got captured, hurt, killed, you know. I think a lot of it was pressure of a movement that was on decline from local police, FBI, and then us, just not experienced enough at knowing how to deal with our internal relationships, really getting shaky. They were really deteriorating. For a lot of reasons, it caused some people to say like 'hey, I gotta get out of this, I'm outta here.'

Team Colors: Often times it implied that the movements of the 1960s faded because of internal bickering. Where do you think popular struggles would have gone without state violence? Even more straightforwardly, do you think there was the potential for the overthrow of dominant systems and replacement with a new system?

Whether we would have really been able to overthrow the government?

Team Colors: In context of a revolutionary moment…

That might have been more '68 to '70. So much was happening where it felt like the air was thick with revolution. You just had to be in it and you probably found yourself joining something. But after that it was much harder and it was more dangerous, that atmosphere was disappearing fast. But when it was there man, I mean, people were ready to throw their lives into this thing without even clearly knowing what the outcome would be, but just on the faith of this revolutionary spirit alone. I think after that, we still had the spirit, but it was more out of like 'we have to do this because we're getting ready to fail if we don't.' And something was missing. Then, you know, you're calling on a lot of folks who you used work with, to say like "hey, c'mon man, what happened to you, why aren't you down anymore?" And maybe not even want to accept their reasons for why they're not, whatever their reasons were. At some point you've gotta step back and say "hey, it's different, something is happening," and say maybe we all need to step back. And some always choose to go forward, and maybe that was the wrong thing to do. I think we had the best of intentions, but maybe we should've all just stepped back, but for a lot of us to step back meant cowardice, so we didn't. And then things happened, and then that movement falls and then a lot of us are in prison.

Trying to figure out even in prison how to keep this thing going, that's hard from in prison. So like from when I went in '74 — I go to prison in '74 — I'm joining a whole bunch of other political prisoners, and everybody's trying to figure out how to keep this going — you know, BLA, we were trying to figure out how to reorganize from within the prison, and get the forces on the street to reorganize. Because I think us being in prison was the first time that we was physically taken out of the situation, not by our own choice. But still, it's a chance to reflect. So people are trying to work it, people are trying to figure out what happened, where did we go wrong? What should we have been doing? So we thought that maybe we wasn't centralized enough. Because BLA did operate very autonomous-cell like, but for some it was like — and I think I was even part of that at the time — I agreed that maybe we need to centralize this more; maybe we need to get this together a little bit more, with a more ideological consolidation, so that's what we were trying to do. And to some degree, some of that that worked, but we couldn't never quite get back to where we were before.

So all through that, like from '74 to the early '80s, it was all about trying to reorganize this thing, but then on the street and in other ways, we're reorganizing the BLA. But there was no more movement, there was no more mass-connected or community-connected movement anymore. So even when the Brinks stuff started happening, there was no community that you could withdraw into. So the FBI and Special Police Squads start coming after you, it's a lot easier for them to start isolating you, figuring out where you at, and then come for you. And that's what it felt like had happened in the early '80s, with the whole Brinks thing; so much broke down around then. We had to watch that from in the prisons.

Team Colors: One interesting thing you've written is:
"Either you respect people's capacities to think for themselves, to govern themselves, to creatively devise their own best ways to make decisions, to be accountable, to relate, problem-solve, break-down isolation and commune in a thousand different ways … OR: you dis-respect them. You dis-respect ALL of us." If people have the capacity to govern themselves and make their own decisions, what role does the idea that people have to think a certain way or attain a certain consciousness have in movement building?

I think that when people interact around whatever their issues are, that they really share and dialog, there is the possibility to create a common page of understanding. There's a chance to create a common page of action too. But people need to understand that what they're creating… some other community around some other issues, they are already forming their own page of understanding and action. So in that sense we've gotta accept that there are going to be differences. If we can figure out that even with our differences, to still be on some page together, like "we know that we can't be free with this empire over us. Can we figure out some way to at least be anti-that while we're respecting each other's uniqueness, or each others autonomous desire to create something better for the situation that we're in?"

The consciousness thing is gonna be different. Part of the thing from the '60s, and maybe the Panthers is perfect for this too — the Panther Party comes into the scene, and they're black nationalists. As it [the Panthers] struggles, its ideology is changing and it's changing because it's interacting with other readings and with other experiences. And reading from Mao and traveling to Cuba or China or Africa and checking out these movements and seeing what moves them, seeing what ideological motivations they're operating off of, the Panther's come back with these stories and you can see how it gets integrated every time the Panthers go somewhere and bring back new information or new readings, new thinkings… for me, the Panthers, you can see that we're developing but its always with practice. I don't know if we started calling ourselves the vanguard or others did, but at some point we started calling ourselves the vanguard. But, it was also a broad range of people being motivated and inspired by Panthers, from poor white folks in the Appalachian mountains, to Chicanos to Puerto Ricans, to folks from other countries. The good thing about it was that everyone was developing this kind of Panther type activity but from their own ground. Y'know… and then there comes the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention where all the groups are supposed to be coming together to theoretically rewrite the constitution for this new society and everybody's supposed to be contributing. So this meeting's taking place in Philadelphia or Washington DC, but it got closed down it started getting so big that the people who originally gave permission got convinced by the FBI "don't let them hold it here." This had to have been 1970. So the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention — great possibilities. But because the Panthers called it, and the vanguard mentality, the Panthers had too much fucking control in it. The women's groups, the White Panthers Party, the SDS and all these other people here, bringing their contribution, but the panthers are pushing for too much control. So every group has their consciousness, but shit, why's this one group trying to dominate the thing? Because we'd convinced ourselves that we had the right analysis, and that this revolution can't happen unless we are in the leadership or it is following Huey P. Newton's thought… but today, I look at how the Zapatistas are trying to do this. They're saying, 'well, lets just to create that space'.

And so different consciousnesses can come from different places can come to the space, and we can figure out the dialog, how to create a way forward that respects us all, that respects the different worlds that we come from. So for me, if that had happened back then in 1970, where

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

would we have been right now? And for me, that's such a better way to go, 'cause for the queer community, or the Yoruba community that may exist in Brooklyn, what's best for them? Whether one is a small geographical community or tied to their ethnicity or dealing with a lifestyle, we should just be open to come together and see how we can do this in a different kind of way. That's the challenge. We definitely didn't overcome that in the '60s and '70s. That's why we couldn't pull it off — it created divisions, it created hostilities, that the FBI who had infiltrated us so much, knew what was going on and could play on the internal contradictions and the intra-organizational differences and antagonisms to the point where we start self destructing.

Team Colors: Do you think that the contemporary anarchist scene suffers from some of this ideological 'correct-line' approach?

I think there's some of it in the anarchist movement. For me it always comes up with the nationalism. I was just reading the latest Fifth Estate and I was reading something, I forget the name of the article, the writer was talking about nationalism and he used a real foul word with it. I was like "God damn, I'm a nationalist, however you understand that, if you want to know what I mean by it, let's talk. So that you see that I'm not talking about creating no nation-state." It hasn't every really meant that for black people and a lot of other folks. It has been a way for people who have been oppressed by a racist system in a very racist way has created other people who have begun to take their own stories in their own hands, to try to create some self-determination, some autonomy. Do not automatically tie me in to European nation states. When you see what the indigenous folks are doing in terms of what they call sovereignty, don't just take that and categorize it. Try to understand it.

So with me, even in the anarchist movement, even when you start dealing with nationalism or sovereignty or Puerto Rican independence, or even Chicanos who are fighting for what they see as the liberation of Aztlan, it ain't for you to see whether that fits some old category. You really need some dialog so that you can see what it is they are fighting for… So now, you've got the Lakota, or at least certain factions in the Lakota, who have called for secession. Instead of you saying "Oh man, I can't deal with this… more division," you maybe need to take a step back and find out "what do they mean?" and see that this is a struggle for their survival and still an anti-neoliberal, anti-imperial struggle that you need to support, and it does not have to fit some preconceived set of categories that you've got. My hope for the anarchist movement is that there's less of that than in some other movements. It's still a struggle.

Team Colors: One thing we thought was remarkable about you was your mix of revolutionary traditions: Your dedication to classical anarchism, black nationalism, post-anarchism, and Marxism. In a movement that seems increasingly ideologically based, how do you find your positions in relation to these individual traditions?

Even with the word ideology, I don't use it, 'cause I see ideology — and this is part of the postmodernist, poststructuralist thing — ideology comes out of having a set of answers for something. So even for me with my anarchism, I don't think it's classical. I don't call myself an anarcho-communist or none of the others. There's definitely anarchism that's open to being in tune with always changing realities. For me, anarcho-communists got good points about certain things, primitivists have good points about certain things. Them two don't get along, but I get something from both of them. I like some aspects of anarcho-individualism, and Tolstoy's spiritualism. For most of my folks, my people are Christians or Muslims and increasingly Yoruba, Kemetic and other African religions that they're recovering and using. I don't want to be categorized as a particular school because I know if I do, the world I would hope to be created won't have room for all kinds of tendencies of anarchism, or all kinds of tendencies of people living their lives according to their own terms. That's why I like Marge Pearcy's Woman on the Edge of Time. So there's certain things from Marxism that I like, which is basically the dialectical method. They can have the rest, 'cause I'm not on the working class as being the ones that we've gotta organize, and I'm not on their historical materialism where communism evolves, 'cause all of that comes out of that European rationalist mindset where science becomes so premier — that if someone doesn't fit that, you justify in your mind that you either have to bring them in line with evolution and progress or you eliminate them. When I look at the Soviet Union and other so called communist and Marxist revolutions, I see what they've done to people who live close to the earth. But when I read Kropotkin and others I say, "well damn, they didn't want to get rid of how people live who are close to the earth" — peasants or whatever. They were about respecting them.

But I do like that the dialectical method helps me to kind of stay abreast of the ever-changing world, but I don't want their solutions when it goes into the historical or political because it did very poorly with race, with sex, and with environmental issues as well. That's ok, 'cause in the Panther Party we were never taught to look at Marx like he was the shit. Our thing was, we looked at the lumpenproletriat. Marx and them looked at the working class, and every group that followed seemed like they had this religious canon. So it had to be the working class, no matter how much the United States has changed due to technology and other stuff, so a lot of Marxist groups looked at the Panthers like we didn't know anything about Marxism and Leninism. They looked at us like we were kind of naive. So I learned early that I don't have to take the whole Marxist picture. But some of it does work, and I think the whole idea of socialism and communism are great ideas, but they are ideas and they don't necessarily have to unfold according to Western streams of scientific thinking, or that things HAVE to unfold according to the iron law of history or whatever. Some people have been living communistically and anarchistically for thousands of years. What are you saying? That they have to go through this development? No! And Marx didn't even have answers for that shit. But I still take what I can from it, and I still take what I think workers, and anarcho-communism and syndicalists, I think workers should be running wherever they work. So there's value in a lot of that for me. I just don't want to be in that category that says "this is that magical class that's going to bring about change."

I'm more from like Marcuse and others — it may come from all kinda different places. It may come from the universities, it may come from the black community, it may come from the reservations, it may come from all of them rather than some pre-ordained class that, supposedly if you get this class organized and conscious of itself it will lead us to. Even with the Black Panther Party I mean, 'cause of me learning the poststructuralist stuff, I still identify with the lumpenproletriat, but I don't look at the lumpenproletriat like it is THE class anymore. I still think it's going to play a hell of a role, but that's going to entirely depend on the revolutionaries within that class.

Because of these advanced technological societies, we are totally thrown out from having a relevant role to the means of production. We are like that irrelevant, throw-away class, like the Zapatista's Mayan communities. But here we're thrown out of industry. We're increasingly either unemployed or underemployed. So it frees us in a sense so that we have time, like Marx says about workers, to think about what's going on. And Malcolm X's perfect examples of what the thinking lumpen can do. The street organizations (like the Young Lords) are perfect examples of what the organizing lumpen can do. For me, I want to be open. Don't make me, even as an anarchist, don't make me be tied down to something that seems to me so anti-anarchist that I just know that the power has to be with the people, that we have to get rid of hierarchical structures wherever we find them, and that we have to figure out how to create a world where all the different identities… where it's possible for them to be who they are, and where it's possible to have that world where everyone fits.

Team Colors: You've helped to bridge a predominantly white anarchist movement, a Zapatista support movement, and an anti-prison movement, which is predominantly of color. How have you seen your position as an organizer and communicator between these movements?

I think that it seems like my role is bridging more with the white anarchist

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

communities… the Earth First! and animal liberation communities for quick terms right now. Where I also want to be is to bridge anarchist ideas and practices into my own black community and also into the academic world of radical academics who really could and want to play a big part in our struggle. That's my desire. But even with the white anarchist community, I really feel like of all the groups, the anarchist mindset is still open to understanding all the different oppressions, that they're not stuck on that it's just the system out there and you have to change the system. Anarchists, I think, understand the power thing more than others, so for me there's potential there. Already, anarchists will deal with movements that silence queers, folks of color, even on an age level — ageism, ableism. And when we start talking about how we have centered everything around us as human beings, I think that's great shit. For that, I'm going to stay with the anarchist movement. I just want that movement to figure out more ways to be relevant to the broader communities.

I'm afraid of that, when people say to the 'mainstream,' and you're talking about mainly that you want to convince mainstream white folks of something. But that process means you've got to keep watering down your message because you know they're not going to just take it as it is. And in that watering down you keep losing what you're really about in trying to appease that mainstream. That's one of the dangers of what's happening with Mumia and the Free Mumia Movement. I don't want that to happen, even with the political prisoner movement. If you keep watering it down, its not the same message anymore, it's not the same goals anymore. But I like bridging things.

Just like with me getting involved with Andy Stepanian and Daniel McGowan, and War Cry and others, it means, for me, I'm broadening my own understanding of the movements, and at the same time I'm constantly thinking about "How can I bring them movements into my community?" Also encouraging them to not just stay there in their community movement, where they've gotta constantly figure out how to get that message going into other communities so that they're not insular. They're really trying to figure out ways to communicate with folks and they're not just staying amongst those who already know.

Animal liberation is a hell of a thing, to say "Look at what we have done as human beings, and look at how we have become the center of everything." The postmodernist thing is decentering. We need to take ourselves out of the fucking center to see how we are related to all living things. This is challenging us to do a re-evaluation of "How do we get in this position? What does it mean for us to stay in it. What might it mean to change the relationship we have to all living things?" And this goes for the Earth First! folks, too. Sometimes it just seems like common sense that we should figure out how to love this earth that we're part of, but then a movement comes along and says, "we're not doing that well, we need to figure out how to save this planet." So for me, it's constantly figuring how my vision of revolution can get enriched. I'm taking in this stuff like decentering man, decentering human being, having a whole new relationship to all living things on this planet and where we are in the universe. It's kind of common sense, but the Indigenous folks have been saying this for generations. People have been getting their inspiration from folks who've been living close to the earth forever. And we're not just talking about folks of color, we're talking about Indigenous folks from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, to this continent here. They have all been close and have got some lessons for us to learn. I appreciate that. So my community, I want them to understand that this ain't just white folks doing this — this is folks from all over the world, from all different lifestyles saying "yo, we gotta stop!"

We have to stop the machinery, even if it's the machinery inside of us… to say, "What the fuck am I doing?" And then figure out how to hook up with others of like mind and like heart and organize so that in a massive way we can all stop the machinery and save this planet, let alone our individual lives — the ozone layer, the water, the pollution — it needs to really be more than who you are as this local person, and for me, that's the potential of the anarchist movement.

Team Colors: What lessons can be shared between the movements you're talking about? Especially during a time when the anarchist movement doesn't seem to be engaged in substantial local organizing efforts.

I always encourage folks to get involved with local. Local is it. The thing I miss most about the Black Panther Party is the local organizing. This is where you go from reading all this stuff that motivates you, to interacting with people about what you're learning and what they know. So we were reading all this stuff in the Panther Party, but the best parts were when we had to go out into the community ourselves without the Panthers there at our side.

At first they would walk us through stuff, "this is study groups, this is how we organize, this is how we rap in the community selling newspapers." But then they would leave and it was on us to do the work. When we started really doing the work, you scared, even a little intimidated. But then you start talking and people start asking you questions like, "my landlord, he won't fix this, and other people in the building have the same problem." Then you have to learn tenant organizing so that you can show them. The effect is so great. You can share something with people in your community and they trust you. You don't even realize how they're looking at you — they're looking at you like, "I'm proud of you, young person." You can see in their eyes that they can finally see that they've got a way to fight back and you can see how it makes them feel. It's really heavy stuff. Then you're joining anti-war protests and encounters with the police and people in the community see that you ain't even scared of them. You're in some of the toughest areas — here's the hustlers, here's the pushers, here's the stickup kids, and you can even relate to them. And they have respect, 'cause they see you there every day or every night, and you're doing your thing, selling your paper, and there's the Nation of Islam and the other groups, and everyone has respect 'cause they know that you're part of this movement. You never realize the impact that you have.

Even with the anarchists, you've gotta do some local work. Even if it's not your community, begin to interact. You don't go in like when Paolo Freire talks about the 'banking method,' you go into dialog. You've got some information, you've go some things to share? Well, so do they. And in the dialog, you gonna see some points where you can begin to work together.

We had learned, even in the Red Book with Mao-tse-Tung. Certain parts of the Red Book, I feel like are very anarchistic. Like, the revolutionaries are supposed to go working in a community, they talk with people about what the issue is and kind of go back home with it, go over it, synthesize it, and work something out, go back to the people and say: "listen, I was thinking about this last night and this is what we came up with. What do you think?" They interact back with you until you actually get to an action program. It was the way we were supposed to integrate our lives into the community. When you read about the early Civil Rights movement, that's what they were doing too. It was around voting and other issues like that, but white folks and northern blacks who were not part of the south, going down to the south was a whole new experience. But you had to go with a certain mindset, at least be humble. You knew you were going down there and it would be a totally different experience for you. But if the people see you consistently enough, and that you're coming from here, they're gonna respect you. A lot of them white folks that went down there, they was accepted into the community. A lot of the northern blacks and even northern Puerto Ricans and others were accepted because in the period of time that they stayed working with them day to day, eating the same way that the people ate, dressing the same way that the people dressed, a certain level of respect happened that allowed them to work together down there. Even if its not your neighborhood, you've gotta be dedicated where you really pull your life into this. You can't just do it and then when it's no longer in season you moving somewhere else or you through cause people ain't treating you the way that you think.

It's a tough struggle, but I think people respect honesty, they respect integrity. They wanna feel like you a genuine person, that you ain't trying to be someone who you're not, so if you talk intellectual they begin to accept,

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

"oh, that's how he talks, that's how she talks." They can accept that as long as you are there consistently and you're demonstrating that you really are there to be a part of the struggle and to help any way you can.

Team Colors: Do you see the anarchist movement moving into that direction?

I see certain efforts. I don't think it's enough. Like here in New York, I think that are certain groups like New York Metro Alliance of Anarchists (NYMAA), the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and 123 SPACE that, far as I understand, are doing some community work. Anarchist People Of Color (APOC) is not there yet, we're still trying to figure it out, and getting active. Once you start figuring it out, you got to integrate, you have to start putting your life into that community where you're at. Sometimes just the one you live in. Understanding each one of us is part of two, three, four, different communities. You're not just one community. You're a community where you live. You may be part of another community that's your ethnic group or spiritual group, another community that's your activist group. You got to learn to work all of those communities. The opportunity is there. Which means that you got ways to really start this networking process, where so many connections are being made where you actually becoming aware of your creative power. There's so many people you're connected with, where you can really see that you cover a wide area that you never even had an idea of. People need to see that.

Nothing beats community work. Nothing beats putting your life into something, getting in your mind that you're going to change in the process too. Don't think that you're not gonna change. Zapatista Sub-comandante Marcos and them learned that. They were University people, going to create a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist revolution with the peasants in southeast Mexico and go down there. But they get humbled by the people of that area and have to learn to accept that their ideas may have some relevance, but so do the Mayan peoples' idea. Your sciences may have some relevance, and so does theirs. And if theirs don't look like yours, well that's ok. You may even see how your ideas came about because they had their basis in the destruction of a lot Mayan culture or the oppression of Mayan communities where the Spaniards come in with their highfalutin ideas. Now the Mayans are like, "We got ours too. We can sit down as equals at the table. Not with you thinking you giving us something." I think anarchists, when we talk about direct democracy and 'horizontalism,' a different way to relate to planetary life, they are going to find a lot people who agree with the same thing, but may be not putting it in the same language. There you've got a basis for the dialog, to maybe start working on these issues together. You don't have to water down what you say, but you need to find a way to communicate to them in an honest and understandable way. Which ain't talking down to them. You done got caught up in this elitist language that it becomes very difficult for you to talk in a communicating way. Maybe you've got to look at that like, "I just got so caught up in a language that opened up so many doors for me that I just lost my ability to just talk."

Team Colors: What do you think it is that keeps so many anarchists from doing that work?

Fear. I think it's fear primarily, but I think what also plays a part in that fear, and this may just be peculiar the United States… We have a hard time dealing with race and privilege. No one wants to say, "I'm from an upper middle class family, I'm pretty privileged. I was raised by parents and we were all raised pretty racist and I carry some of that stuff." No one wants to say that. We just want it to work. It don't work like that. Issues always come up. Race, Class, Gender, and I think the anarchist movement do that better than others, but we gotta do so much better in talking about it. You know the small oppressions or how gender oppression comes out of our behavior, or our thinking or racist oppression comes out of our thinking. We can really work this out if we put it on the table. We don't have to know exactly how it's going to turn out. Zapatistas — figure it out as we go. Ask questions. For me, it's that point that I think I see American's don't like messiness. So when we feel like it's going to get messy, we avoid it. By avoiding it, we hold ourselves beck from doing so much more. We just got to get to a point where it' going to be messy. I've been in struggles where I tell people about the 2000 Republican Convention in Philadelphia. The spokes-council thing when the folks of color came, there was a struggle and the struggle got intense, but it had to happen, folks of color had to make sure their voices were heard.

Team Colors: Can you elaborate on that?

What I remember is that when we came there, we knew that we was going to have to deal with the spokes-council, which seemed to have been dominated by white folks, white anarchists, and other folks. People had felt like there was some other spokes-councils where folks of color's voices had not been heard. I wasn't one of the people chosen to be on the spokes-council, so I wasn't directly in the mix, but I watched the discussion. I watched some discussions happen, some back and forth that got really intense, some people cried. But they stayed in it. Folks of color wanted direct equal participation in everything from the strategizing, to tactics, to choosing which issues were being highlighted more so than others so that they would know their issues weren't being put on the back burner by what could be a predominantly white decision making process. It did help for the activities the next day to shut down the convention. It helped it to go a lot better. Because I think the folks of color felt that their voices were heard that they were a significant part of the spokes-council, and their issues were going to be addressed. They gave me hope, because I saw the spokes-council structure work. Who knows, maybe something better will come up or it will be improved. But it showed me that anarchists primarily are the ones who were searching for better methods of inclusion.

Other groups don't do that, they just don't do it. From the nationalist groups to the Marxists groups, to the Left in general. They already come up with concepts of coalitions and it's all figured out. One group will fight to be the vanguard — they ain't looking for a lot of inclusion. They just think that stuff is messy. Or, we'll never make a decision, so listen, "we need to make a decision right away, and the structure for that is hierarchy." Just common sense to them, but here we are saying: "No, we're going to make the space, it's going to take some time, it may take a couple of days. But at least we all come out of this feeling like our voices was heard, our faces actually were seen and recognized, and no one was trying to make anybody feel like we're invisible." That's our movement, and yeah, we could do better, but it's ours. I think it forces other movements to at least try to mimic that stuff or at least give lip service to it. I think if it wasn't for Seattle and democracy happening in the streets with the decision making happening just like that… This is new stuff that says we can do this differently. We can be effective. For me it means we can win. I'm there.

Team Colors: Looking at the current movement composition within the anti-prison struggle, Zapatista support, environmental justice movement, and anarchism, can you describe the current potential and problems that you see in those movements?

That's a huge question. Anti-prison struggles. There's an abolitionist understanding about a lot of them. It was definitely a new consciousness for me to come into an abolitionist understanding of the anti-prison movement. We are envisioning a society or a world without prisons. That used to be the banner written on Critical Resistance: "Once there were no prisons, that time shall come again." That's like, oh, OK, we ain't just talking about reforming prisons or cutting down on them. We're trying to figure out a society where we don't have prisons at all. We understand the class nature, we understand how brutal they are, how anti-human they are. Let's figure out what kind of world we want. For me it's anarchism, 'cause it's saying that we're not going to re-create structures that oppress people.

The Zapatista's are trying to create a world, they don't call themselves the anarchist movement. But they do so much that's anarchistic. Some people were a little upset when they found out the Zapatista's set up these, it might be a house, that when somebody's drunk and they can't seem to

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

control them, they may just take this person and just lock them up in a house. Some people said, "Oh look, they're not what I thought, they're not anarchists. They're using a prison-like system." But for the Zapatista's, they're trying to figure it out. They're not saying, "This is going to be a main feature in the society we're trying to create, but we're trying to figure it out. This is what we're going to do right now." Even with the Zapatista army, they're saying, "Listen, it's a hierarchal structure." Though the juntas are really kind of anarchistic the way they are set up. They got this mixture thing going on, because they ain't quite figured out how it needs to be. Because this army needs to be able to move quickly and effectively. So they set up a hierarchal structure. But they say that the community, in terms of making decisions, that needs to have everybody participating and taking their time. So they do that rotating thing where every two weeks people are coming on. My god, that's anarchistic. They experiment. They're this movement that probably for me comes close to what I think the Spanish Civil War was about, as far as anarchists go.

The thing is, the Zapatista's don't want to be pigeon-holed. Even with the thing with the little jail, transformative justice or restorative justice is concepts they obviously deal with. They trying to find ways to not just confine people, but bringing balance. They bring Mayan forms of justice to Western forms. They really are about bringing the balance thing, which falls more into the restorative justice or transformative justice… They're really trying to figure it out as it goes. If a member of the community harms or even kills someone, they're not going to bring them to the police, they're not even arresting them to lock them up. They are going to sit them parties down and try to figure out how do we now bring balance or reparations back to the community that has been harmed. So the family's representatives get together, the community's representatives get together. It may be that because this person has harmed this person's family's ability to produce for themselves, you may now be required to produce for your family, you may be required to produce for the other persons family 'til they figure something out. The fact that they are even experimenting with that, it means they are not just trying to do things from the old way, from the old oppressive system.

So it has particular interest for me as an anarchist. I stay up on it all the time. They are posing questions that have always been hard for us. Even the one around the EZLN, the Zapatista army, the question that may have led to the defeat of the anarchists in the Spanish civil war… They were never able to figure out, "How do we defend, do we do a standard army, what do we do?" Maybe the decision around, well, "Maybe we shouldn't," made them vulnerable enough for the Communists and Fascists to just destroy them. I'm sure there's folks within the Zapatista's who are quite familiar with that, and are constantly figuring out how to deal with that question.

The other thing is in terms of the environmental thing, I think that we always gotta figure out: what is environmental justice when it's related to a community that is predominately of color? What's environmental racism? How does one bring justice to that type of situation? I think for us here in Harlem, Harlem's got a lot of environmental racism, from where they dump garbage to oil spills to the air pollution to the automobile congestion and gas, the high levels of asthma and stuff… how would that be resolved in the interest of the people that live there? It poses some questions: We're a pretty complex society. We can't quite operate as if communities are insular and they can just make decisions as if they're not connected to all these other structures. It makes us think about it… You don't have to have it all together, but when it gets on the table you can be sure that people will find people that have given it a lot of thought and people who are involved in the day to day anti-environmental racism struggles that can offer key shit, that are already trying to do certain forms of organizing.

The job is not as difficult as a lot of times I think we believe it is. We basically have got all have the knowledge to create another world, if only we could be convinced of it. I used to go to the Institute for Social Ecology, I would sit in on some of classes. Some of the classes used to take the students outside to learn about herbs that we would just think of as weeds. I'm amazed at how the students know so much about these plants that grow right in our neighborhood that can be used for medicinal purposes or for food. They just learn this from being a part of the Institute for Social Ecology. There's people we know who do alternative healing in the community. There's people we know who know all about the climate change and the atmosphere. They're not experts — they're damn smart activists. We just need to convince ourselves that we know this stuff. We need to act more, so we can begin to take back our lives, not in that big cataclysmic way that the Marxists think it's going to happen. But in the small ways that it generally always happens, until someone takes credit for it later on… Here comes the vanguard, and they're like, "we did it." We are always learning how to take care of ourselves outside of the system. It's the same with all of this — we're trying to figure out how to have justice without dialing 911. Critical Resistance was initiating that a few years ago. How to have justice without taking it to the injustice system. How to make decisions in different ways — we're practicing this stuff every time we experiment.

Team Colors: So the new society erupts in the process?

Yes! That's the way it happens. We just gotta convince ourselves we're not alone in this. We know that people are doing this all around the world. When we start supporting the U'wa people, and all these other groups, that's what they're doing, they're snatching their lives out of neoliberalism. We also doing it in our ways in this technologically advanced urban society called the United States. We just need to do more of that interconnected work. We need to realize that we probably have the power to change the world tomorrow. We're the ones that need to be convinced, 'cause they've convinced us that we're isolated, and we're not. That's why I love the animal liberation folks. All these actions, either free the animals or bring attention to it and don't get caught — so what if it's not in the New York Times. Their little magazines and other ways of communication, it does reach people. Even in the 1960s there was all kinds of zines. You could go somewhere and there was just racks and racks and racks of zines. They're telling you about all this other stuff going on. You really felt there was a revolution going on.

Team Colors: You spoke about people realizing the power we have, what limitations do you see within these movements and places they need to address the lack of engagement?

I see the biggest limitations being around our fear of grappling with race, gender, and class. I think it's the thing in the U.S. history of struggles that has kept us divided, and I think it's the most difficult thing for us to confront and prepare to work through. I think when it comes down to it, if we can do better on that, we could propel forward, but those are the messy things. It's our fear of dealing with the messy things that holds us back. One thing I think is important, and this is from my background too, people are afraid of consequences. I mean, I come out of the Black Panther Party. I am convinced that, I don't care what, we're not going to change this world or bring down this empire unless, like Malcolm X says, it's gonna be by any means necessary. That expression means that we have to understand that this is a murderous system, it will kill it's own momma. I mean look what happened to Brad Will… I don't care that it was in Mexico, it's still part of this neoliberal power grid. It will kill. It will lock up, it will frame, it will drive people insane. We have to have in our minds that it is war in that sense. We're up against an enemy. At least a physical one we can identify, the people that support this system that we're going to confront.

Sometimes we're going to have to fight. I believe that we should- — and this is what Dhoruba bin-Wahad says — I believe that we should be preparing an underground all the time. Why do we wait for Fascism to drive us under? Why do we wait? With the anti-war movement, you know, people is not wanting to fight. They signed up, yeah, but they didn't really understand and this consciousness hits them and they want out. We have no way for them to get out, 'cause we ain't even trying to develop no underground. There should be something. There should be something for those communities who feel the need to develop an armed movement. Whether it's the Lakota or whether its the black community or the Puerto Rican independence movement — how do we support the different

An Interview with Ashanti Alstone (continued)

struggles that diversely attack? Some groups are going to decide they want to implement armed struggle. We should have something. We should have something that we're working on all the time. Because the law is against us. There are those who are going to use the law, but for the most part we should have a way to keep people out of the grip of the monster. We'll help people disappear, we'll get you somewhere, there's doctors, people who know how to make ID's. There's some money here for you — go! I don't think that we wait, I don't think that in that sense our struggle is different from those who fought the Nazis during Hitler's reign or Mussolini's. We have to be clear that this is not a nice struggle. It can't be won through legality. We can use legalities, but it can't be won that way.

Team Colors: Do you think that the Left has the ability to take that on as an accepted notion?

I think the Left is going to fight it. I think it challenges the Left in terms of how comfortable the Left has gotten. Even with the Left, I don't call myself a leftist, because the left and the right come out of a certain tradition. And in certain ways the left and the right are part of the same system. We have to figure out how to go beyond. A lot of people in the Left are caught up within doing things within a certain legality. It doesn't make sense to me that you call yourself a revolutionary and you won't even jaywalk. Or if you're hungry you won't even steal. Or you won't support somebody else who has to or feels the need to. I think about that, you know? I want to deal with people who aren't even a part of the Left. A lot of those people are ready to struggle to survive, and maybe take it beyond survival. If attracting people means saying "Hey you know your society has been fucked up from day one. The elections, the ability to get the latest cell phone, or music system, it's a diversion. They're gonna keep coming for you if you keep paying, maybe we should change the way that we live or the way we relate to this madness." The system is not going to let people withdraw to the point where it threatens how the system functions.

Even to withdraw, it's going to come after you. Is your idea spreading? Are other people trying to withdraw? They're not going to let this happen if there is money involved. It's profit and power. The movies on what's really going on behind the scenes, where they send Blackwater type figures to take care of this and that, I think that's based on what's really going on. For writers and directors I think this is the only way they can get their own message out about what's really going on behind the official walls of power. David Patterson just assumed the office of governor. He has to deal with that state police up there, which seems to be operating as this underground police force in the service of certain politicians. They're a murderous crew, I think they probably will do anything. What happens when that's directed towards activists on the streets?

I live everyday within my mind that one day they going to come after me. Being an enemy of the State, the State is going to send someone after me. Whether it be an official employee or a reactionary from the unofficial gangs who they send after me. For a person to kill me who's of my own community is more depressing than if some white cop comes up and kills me. My community might then be enraged, just like Malcolm X, because it was black hands that killed him, that hurt. A lot. I live with that. I'm fine with that. They're not going to just let us use the liberal aspect of their democracy to keep doing this. When we become effective, they're coming for us.

I mean, at the last 2004 presidential election, I'm in Chiapas, Mexico for 6 months, I ain't even doing anti-convention stuff. Nightline has a news report on anti-convention activity and 55 dangerous anarchists, and my picture is on there! I'm like, " I ain't even organizing this." And I don't mind… it's an honor! They keep tabs. We can be very naïve about them staying on us. Then when they come for us, we think it's somebody who infiltrated us. A lot of the time we're very naïve and we ran our mouth off on the phone or talked to somebody who is an agent. When they come, they come. When they was coming for people as a result of the Green Scare, a lot of them was kind of naïve. When the state gets you, they going to put the pressure on. They're gonna make it seem like everyone is pointing the finger at you, then you'll start running your mouth about everybody else. Then here's another slew of people getting ready to be political prisoners. How many people from the Earth First! and animal liberation movement backed up when them arrests and prison time started coming? Which is what the system wants. They ain't going to stop with discouraging people, they will kill people. Fred Hampton is classic, but he wasn't the only one. So many Native Americans was just disappeared. Clearly the FBI, CIA, Bureau of Indian Affairs. You are really putting your life on the line when you become a revolutionary. Revolutionary Catechism's thing is, a revolutionary is a doomed man or a doomed woman… It's really never left. In that sense I think that we have to take the struggle more seriously, 'cause when we don't it's a block in terms of what we do. What we are willing to do.

Team Colors: How can the community work you've been involved in — the Panthers, Critical Resistance, the Jericho Amnesty Movement — be used to critique the problems you've addressed?

Figuring out how to get involved with community struggles. That's still number one. I would love for groups to begin to put the issue of political prisoners on their agendas in a prominent way. The issue of political prisoners forces people to think about what this struggle is about. These are the people who made the sacrifices back in the '60's and '70's. What does it mean that they're locked up there and we pay them no attention as we still struggle to make changes in the United States. I think to connect with them brings needed history, it brings reminder stories that people need to know. In the effort to free them we are saying, "We got a commitment to them, that whatever we do, we're saying we want them free, we want them out here." When you connect with the political prisoner, you're saying you are honoring the dreamers of the past, whose dreams you've taken on now and to the future you're saying that we can't really move with any sense of real integrity unless we're working for their freedom. If there's tactical stuff that says, "new trial, they're innocent," let that be clear. But let's be clear that they are political prisoners. We must fight for their freedom. For example in the Mumia case, I always say, "I don't care whether Mumia killed that cop or not. He belongs to us, he's our freedom fighter. Free him." OK, the facts point to his innocence. If it works in the interim to say 'new trial', ok, but let's be clear, that's just for the interim. Its THEIR judicial system! They have no right to have him. He's ours. We are at war.

We are in communities of resistance until we can finally get from under your grip. If that should cause your downfall, well hey… with Leonard Peltier, he's in the forefront of all that they [indigenous struggles] do. In the case of the IRA, the political prisoners was in the forefront of everything they do. In the anti-apartheid movement, the prisoners was in the forefront. If we ever get to the point where we can bring the powers that be to the table, it should be the first thing we put on the table. Jut like with the anti-apartheid movement — "Free Nelson and the rest of them first. Then we can sit down and talk." We don't do that here. I think it's a way for us to deepen our understanding of our struggle, to deepen the commitment to our struggle, and to honor those who picked up the struggle from the generation before. In a sense it's like reconnecting on that intergenerational thing. With the Zapatista's, every generation is in their struggle. It's not just young people, its whole communities. They're honoring their traditions as a Mayan people in their Mayan communities. Here we're very mixed, but we need to have that intra-generational connection. We need to honor those who laid it down before us. Especially those who are still alive but are just in these dungeons. We need to let the system know that they are on the front of our minds. We want them out.

"Only force can help where force prevails"- Bertolt Brecht

Obstructionists: Identifying and Handling Them

from No Compromise Issue 4

"First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's greatest stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action'; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time and who constantly advised the Negro to wait until a 'more convenient season.' Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." - Martin Luther King Jr., excerpt from his April 16, 1963 letter from Birmingham City Jail.

Infiltrators, informers, and agent provocateurs are not the only threats our movement faces. There's also the obstructionists: activists who prevent others from doing the actions necessary to bring about real and significant change.

Obstructionists can be found in every movement. Martin Luther King Jr. called them "moderates" and Malcolm X called them "Uncle Toms." As King's quote from above says, obstructionists hinder the movement more than its opponents.

Their harm arises out of the fact that they are "one of us." Because of this, good activists often capitulate to the obstructionist's demands of inaction or ineffective action to maintain movement unity. Movement unity is an important goal to strive for, but it should not be achieved at the expense of the animals. In opposing most actions, obstructionists also tie up good activists' time and energy in argument. These repeated and unproductive verbal fights frustrate and dishearten the good activists, and can drive them to burnout.

Because of the harms obstructionists cause, it is important we recognize them and deal with them appropriately. The following is a list of characteristic traits of an obstructionist.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN OBSTRUCTIONIST

1. Despise many non-violent tactics. Obstructionists pretend to hate controversy and ill-will leading them to argue against direct action like civil disobedience. They fear protests might get "out-of-control" so they take precautions to ensure it doesn't. They might not allow chanting, or they might appoint protest monitors to keep activists "orderly". The police and other authorities are often their best friends. Obstructionists obey all commands of the police and have no problem giving them whatever information they request.

Strangely enough, although obstructionists act like they oppose controversy and ill-will, they only seem to hate it when directed at animal abusers, for they typically have no problem verbally thrashing good activists who suggest the group take other, more effective actions.

2. Overly concerned with image. One of the obstructionists main arguments against effective actions includes their desire to maintain a "good" image. They fear direct action makes them look "extreme", and "radical." They have volumes of anecdotal evidence which they recite to show that direct action harms our image.

Certainly there is some room and need to discuss image. We don't want us, as messengers, to distract from the message. But at the same time, we must not let concerns of image unnecessarily waste precious time. When considering the impact of an action on our image, we should ask the question: Does this action make us look committed, determined, sincere, and unwilling to tolerate animal abuse? or does it make us look weak, apathetic, and apologetic? By answering this simple question we can determine whether to do the action, or work on organizing a better one.

Furthermore, the animal rights movement is not a public relations firms. We are educators, and in order to educate we need to agitate. Only by waking people out of their slumber of complacency will we be able to get their attention and show them the horrors of animal abuse. Large animal-abusing, environment-raping, human-oppressing companies need P.R. Firms because they have to cover-up their destructive practices and sugar-coat their atrocities. We, on the other hand, have nothing to hide. So don't spend too much time worrying about image, and be wary of those who do.

3. Must have total control. Obstructionists must always have their way. Non-participation with actions they disagree with is not good enough for them. They have a burning desire to ensure those actions don't happen. Yelling, crying, guilt-trips, abuse of power, lies, back-stabbing and playing on your sympathy are some of the artillery obstructionists use to get you to obey their will.

Certainly everyone has a right to their opinion, but compromise between activists should be a give and take proposition. You will find obstructionists always take and never give.

4. Sabotage good activists. Obstructionists often try to minimize the effectiveness of good activists. They do this for a variety of reasons. Good activists make them look bad by making more sacrifices for animal, which results in more positive change for animals. Unfortunately, instead of trying to do more to help animals, obstructionists prefer to degrade good activists in an attempt to make themselves look better. Other reasons for obstructionists to sabotage good activists includes they are jealous, power-hungry, or have an overly-developed ego.

Obstructionists attack good activists in many ways. They prevent them from getting the resources they need to be effective, kick them out of the organization, paint their successes as tragedies that hurt the movement, spread damaging rumors about them, and use other under-handed ploys to regain control and get their way.

5. Weak on issues. Although this is not always the case, they are often weak on the issues. They argue against veganism, make excuses for animal abusers, and despise direct action activists more than animal abusers.

Unfortunately, not all obstructionists are as clearly defined as the descriptions given above. They definitely work on a continuum and sometimes it is hard to tell if they are an obstructionist or just a naive activist. Therefore, the below rules on handling obstructionists can be applied when working with all activists. These simple rules will help minimize the negative effects of obstructionists, while encouraging movement unity.

RULES FOR DEALING WITH OBSTRUCTIONISTS

1. Work together when possible. Work with other activists -- obstructionists or not -- on issues and actions that you agree with. Don't be afraid to work with them and support their actions which help animals. Hard-core obstructionists will often refuse to work with you, treating you like some kind of slime mold instead of graciously accepting your help. Regardless of their unwillingness to work with you, continue to offer your help and support for their effective activities. It should be the obstructionists who prevent movement unity, not you.

2. Expect compromise to go both ways. As animal activists in a diverse movement, we must realize that not every activist can get their way all the time. When working with other activists be prepared to make compromises (on actions NOT Animals!!!), but make sure they are willing to reciprocate. If they are unwilling to do this, it might be time to part ways.

3. Follow your conscience. The best advice when dealing with activists is

Obstructionists **(continued)**

to follow your conscience. Even if it leads you in directions that are uncharted or scary, it will not lead you astray. If the group you started has been infiltrated by obstructionists, your conscience might tell you to leave it and start over. It might not always lead you in an easy direction, but it will lead you down rewarding paths. Don't fear following its lead.

4. Speak the truth, but don't get hostile. Obstructionists are quick to anger. Respond to their yelling by calmly stating your ideas, arguments, and opinions. Their inaccuracies and distorted half-truths must be confronted and corrected, but don't meet their hostility with similar anger. Our actions need to show that any disunity in the movement is not caused by direct action activists. We must always be willing to work with others, even those we disagree with. However, we cannot let ourselves become obstructionists' doormats.

5. If you are an obstructionist . . . Some people reading this might recognize some or all of the traits of an obstructionist in themselves. If this is the case, it is a good time to evaluate your involvement in the movement and your relationship with other activists. However, since all activists should strive to better themselves, I invite all readers to take some time and answer the following questions:

What are your priorities? Where do the animals fall into those priorities? How much are you willing to sacrifice for the animals? Do you treat other activists with respect? Why or why not? Does your involvement with the movement stem from ulterior motives? What personal fears do you have about your involvement with the movement or direct action? If your fears are realized, would life really end? Do you spread damaging gossip about other activists? What three promises could you make or actions could you do to become a better activist?

After taking some time to answer these questions, please take action to make yourself a selfless activist for animals who treats other activists with the respect they deserve.

Merritt Clifton: Obstructionist Extraordinaire Clifton is a perfect example of an obstructionist. He vehemently denounces being an animal rights activist (which is true), even though he has no problem giving activists "pointers" and explaining to them their "mistakes". Instead of an activist, he claims to be an unbiased "journalist" who believes in the humane ethic.

Clifton's paper Animal People has spread his obstructionist ideas to all corners of North America's animal movement. In it, he defends businesses like Proctor & Gamble, McDonalds, and Sea World; rants about the "psychotic" A.L.F. activists; and pleads for activists to work with abusers to bring about change for the animals.

Clifton, with the help of his paper, has helped lull the movement into a complacent slumber -- our outrage was pacified, ineffective campaigns were looked upon as the animals' salvation, and direct action was dismissed as extremist and ineffective. This is a good example of the potential dangers that obstructionists pose to our movement.

In accordance with obstructionist tendencies, Clifton opposes the non-violent direct action of the A.L.F. Clifton's fanatical hatred of the Animal Liberation Front is legendary. He considers the A.L.F. to be "nightriders", "psychopaths", and "terrorists". He compares them to the Ku Klux Klan, saying they operate on the same principle that "might makes right".

He down-plays the A.L.F.'s successes and assumes the worst. When the A.L.F. liberated 1,200 animals from the University of Arizona in 1989, he argues that the A.L.F. torched the labs -- mice and all! Not even the vivisectors entertain such a ridiculous idea. Clifton still doesn't seem to understand that members of the A.L.F. believe in animal rights, and would not harm animals.

True to obstructionist's principles, Clifton's main argument against the A.L.F. is that they hurt our image. Clifton argues this image problem makes: abusers less willing to implement humane changes, the media less willing to run stories on animal issues, and the public less willing to adopt a humane lifestyle. In Clifton's words, "[coverage of A.L.F. activities] tends to increase the perception that animal rights activists are terrorists, crazy, and dangerous."

Clifton, although willing to bend over back-wards to speak well of the abusers, apparently has no problem trying to destroy good direct action activists. As any educated activist knows, you do not spread rumors that other activists are infiltrators without hard evidence (read War at Home; Covert Actions Against U.S. Activists and What We Can Do About It by Brian Glick), or rumors linking people with illegal activities. However, he has publicly argued on the internet that two people involved with the production of No Compromise are agent provocateurs on the basis that they support direct action. Clifton has also publicly suggested that three No Compromise activists, whom he mentioned by name, were involved in certain specific A.L.F. actions which none of them had been arrested or convicted for. I have not repeated the names of the people he has tried to denigrate because those rumors are nothing more than damaging lies which must be buried.

As someone who claims to have been involved with environmental, peace, and animal issues for over two decades, Clifton should know better. I think he does know better. And it is precisely because he knows how harmful these rumors can be that he uses them. Direct action threatens his perceived "empire" that he has created with Animal People and he wants radical actions stopped. Since he doesn't recognize the fact that direct action stems from committed people who demand change now, he is attacks the messenger that reports on direct action, No Compromise, by attacking those people involved in its production.

Clifton is also weak on the issues. For starters, he admits to not being vegan while traveling. Equally egregious, he defends Sea World, Proctor & Gamble, and McDonalds. He argues that Sea World has the world's largest tanks, rescues dolphins, promotes environmental education, and has not captured animals from the wild for over a decade. I guess we should just ignore the fact that the animals are still imprisoned and that any tank, no matter how large, is still a toilet when compared to the ocean.

When defending the vivisectors, Proctor & Gamble, Clifton argues that P&G have donated $45 million to developing alternatives to animal tests, reduced animal use by 56%, and in 1984 made a corporate commitment to phase out all animal tests as quickly as possible. But if P&G is so good why is it that more than a decade after their "corporate commitment", they continue to slice, dice, and sacrifice animals for profit?

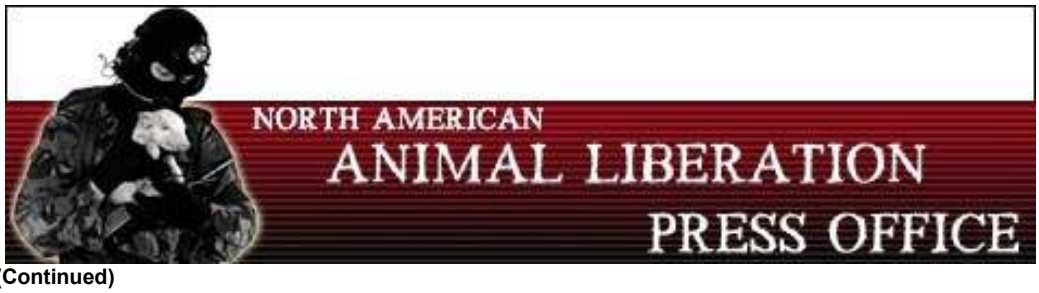
And how could Clifton possibly defend McDonalds? Because the golden arches signed an agreement to only purchase brutalized carcasses from factory farmers that meet the humane standards set up by some meat promoting organization. Well, hooray for the largest animal killer in the world! Hey Merritt, sign me up for the Humane Auschwitz Now campaign!

With friends like Clifton, the animals don't need enemies. There are many obstacles in our way towards animal liberation -- the abusers, the authorities, infiltrators, and agents. But we must also remember that even those who claim to be friends of the animals can also be obstacles. Just be sure to always place the interests of animals foremost in your mind and follow your conscience when determining what is right and wrong. Think for yourself and don't be afraid to rock the boat if that's where your conscience dictates.

We Have A Dream

By Animal Liberationists Worldwide

Thirty million years ago, the Almighty Force of the Universe, in whose symbolic shadow we stand, engineered the creation of “Life” as We know it. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Human and Non-Human creatures first emerging from the primordial “slime.” It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of darkness in the Void. But, thirty million years later, we face the tragic fact that the first beings on earth, the Non-Human Animal Species, have been



We Have a Dream (Continued)

enslaved.

Thirty million years later, the life of the "Animal" is sadly crippled by the manacles of systematic daily torture and the chains of isolation and death like never before in the history of "Life" on this planet. Thirty million years later, the Non-Human Animal lives on a lonely island of destitute poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. Thirty million years later, the "Animal" is languishing in the corners of Global Society Markets and finds himself a prisoner in his own land.

So, we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense, we have come to our fellow Human Beings to cash a check. When the Architect of our Universe wrote the magnificent words of the Bible and said "ye shall have dominion over all of the animals, it declared us as Stewards of all living things, "Guardians" to a promissory note to which every Human Being was to fall heir.
This note was a promise that ALL BEINGS would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as decreed by their Maker who presented them upon this earth as Whole an self-sustaining.

It is obvious today that Human Beings have defaulted on this Covenant's promissory note to be "Guardians" insofar as her "Animal" citizens are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, Human Beings have given "Animals" a bad check, which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we, the Animal Liberationists, refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of "Humanity" and the chance for survival on this Planet. So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of Freedom and the security of Justice and peaceful coexistence.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind the Human Race of the fierce urgency of "NOW." This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. After 30 million years, NOW is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of speciesist oppression to the sunlit path of Equal Rights and Coexistence. NOW is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's Children, not just the Human ones. Now is the time to lift our consciousness from the quicksands of Speciesism to the solid rock of Trans-Species Brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the Human Race to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of both the ecosystem and the Animal Liberationists. This sweltering summer of the Animal Liberationists' legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of Freedom, Equality, and Good Will toward ALL of God's Children. 2006 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Animal Liberationists' needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if this torturous, greedy Human Species returns to "business as usual." There will be neither rest nor tranquility on this Planet until "Animals" are granted their god-given citizenship rights – and returned their birthright to a HOME on this planet.

The Whirlwinds of Revolt will continue to shake the foundations of every nation until the bright day of Ethics and Justice emerges. But there is something that we must clarify to our own Race who stand on the warm threshold that leads into the palace of Justice. In the process of gaining a rightful place for "Animals," we will not be guilty of "wrongful deeds." We will not seek to satisfy our thirst for "Animal" freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. With clarity of mind and love in our hearts, we will honor our fellow "Animal" brethren and fight to the death for their safety, for their well-being, for their place in the sun. And, because we are moral, civilized, responsible, ethically loving beings, honoring our ultimate Covenant with the Universe, we will suffer no guilt in the "War" to end Speciesism that was begun by our greedy, profiteering opponents. And, we will WIN… by any means necessary… with the Almighty Creator on our side. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline, unlike the murderers of the Innocents who sink to new depths of depravity daily in their quest for monetary gain. We will not allow our creative protest to degenerate to their levels of depravity… but we will use any and all "necessary force" to fight the evil of these speciesist oppressors and butchers, whether they be fur farmers, hunters, factory farmers, heinous researchers and experimenters wrapped in the Flag of "Science," or saddistic circus owners. Again and again, we will rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force and All Force necessary to overcome this Planet's heinous and inhumane enemies.

The Marvelous New Militancy which has engulfed the Global Liberation Community will lead us to Victory, and the oppressors will come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom and the freedom we will secure for Non-Human Animals.

We cannot walk alone. And, as we walk, we do make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot, and will not, turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of Animal Rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as Black Bears and Wolves, fatigued from aerial gunning, cannot gain lodging in the forests of the mountains and the rivers of the valleys. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Primate's basic mobility is from a lesser prison to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as the circus Elephant does tricks by chains and bullhooks and the research monkey is born behind bars only to suffer and die the loneliest of deaths. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until Justice rolls down like waters, and Righteousness like a mighty stream.

We are not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from witnessing narrow cells and torture chambers. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of judicial persecution and staggered by the winds of governmental brutality and imprisonment. You, who have risked your lives for a Higher Cause, have been the veterans of creative suffering. Your bodies may be imprisoned… but your Spirits are not forgotten. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Brittain to spy on HLS and its barbaric "research" atrocities; go back to destroy fur farms, where Animals are skinned alive, and "research" labs that gain billions on the suffering and brutal deaths of the Innocents; go back to paint KFC and put them out of business by any means necessary; go back to Germany, to India, to Australia and to Canada… go back to the slums and ghettos of our circuses and zoos… go back to the "Auschwitzes" of university "scientific research" facilities… go back to fight the Baby Seal butchers in Canada, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. We will not wallow in the valley of despair. We say to you today, dearest friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, we still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream, in the Biblical dream, in the Universal Dream.

We have a dream that one day all nations will rise up and live out the true meaning of the Universe's Creed as so aptly inscribed by the authors of the U.S. Constitution: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that ALL BEINGS are created equal."

We have a dream that, one day, on the bountiful hills of America the sons of former slaves will roam free, without the tethers that scar their legs and the bullhooks that gouge their flesh.

We have a dream that one day the rhesus monkey will not be viewed as a commodity on which to test scorching, bludgeoning, poisoning or sensory deprivation but on whom we can peacefully gaze as he swings in the freedom of his natural habitat.

We have a dream that one day even the Republic of China, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of brutality and oppression, will be transformed

We Have a Dream (Continued)

Into an oasis of Freedom and Justice for ALL Animals, both Human and Non-Human.

We have a dream that our animals will, one day, live in a nation where they will not be judged by the softness of their fur or the ease by which they can be skinned or annally electrocuted but by the worthiness of their innate character and inherent value. We have a dream today.

We have a dream that, one day, Senator Lewis' perspective, which is presently dripping with ignorance, interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where the idea of gross Speciesism will be recognized and "Animals" will be regarded as our rightful sisters and brothers. WE HAVE A DREAM TODAY.

We have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Universe shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together in harmony and brotherly love. This is our hope. This is the faith with which we return to our commitment and our Battle.

With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of Hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of Brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for Freedom together, knowing that WE WILL CREATE FREEDOM one day.

This will be the day when all of God's Children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let Freedom ring…"… for ALL Animals, both Human and Non-Human! And if America is to be a great nation, and the Human Species is to evolve to its full spiritual potential, THIS MUST BECOME TRUE.

So, LET FREEDOM RING from the prodigious universities of New Hampshire!
Let Freedom Ring from the mighty circuses of New York!
Let Freedom Ring from the factory farms of the Midwest!
Let Freedom Ring from the renowned hospitals of California!
Let Freedom Ring from the heightening plains of Kenya!
Let Freedom Ring from the "psychology" labs of Russia!
Let Freedom Ring from the "research" facilities of all coutries!
But not only that; let Freedom ring from HSL labs of Brittain!
Let Freedom ring from butchering fur farms of China!
Let Freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of this, our Mother Earth…

From Every Mountainside, LET FREEDOM RING.

When we Let Freedom Ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, from every nation great and small, we will be able to speed up that day when ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN, Rhinos and Elephants, Gorillas and Chimps, Cougars, Jaguars, Rabbits, Rats and Minks, Chickens and Calves, Rabbits and Pigs… and every species on this beautiful planet, will be able to join hands with ALF and with all humane Beings and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, WE'RE ALL FREE AT LAST!

2 Years for Rescuing Dog, ALF Rescue More Animals in Retaliation

by Will Potter

Woman Sentenced to 2 Years for Rescuing Dog, "Terrorists" Rescue More Animals in Retaliation. As both the US and UK governments (and many others) are cracking down on animal rights and environmental activists, labeling them as terrorists and hitting them with outrageous prison sentences, supporters say it is for a few reasons. First, they say that these activists are national security threats. Second, they say that this boot-on-the-throat approach will deter future illegal activity by underground, "eco-terrorist" groups like the Animal Liberation Front.

But here's a recent example of how this "Green Scare" plays out in real life. A UK activist named Sara Whitehead was just sentenced to 2 years in prison for rescuing a beagle from an abusive home. That's right, two years. Neighbors had filed complaints with the police and the RSPCA, to no avail. When Whitehead rescued the dog, cops pounced surprisingly quickly: it turns out Whitehead, like many activists, was already under police surveillance.

So has this use of police resources, to crack down on a woman rescuing an abused dog, deterred illegal activity by "eco-terrorist" groups like the Animal Liberation Front?

Far from it. Bite Back Magazine has published an anonymous communiqué that says:

"Animal liberation volunteers are claiming responsibility for the direct intervention in the animal farming industry, as an act of solidarity with Sarah Whitehead who is currently behind bars for doing the right thing. While Sarah remains locked in her cell for freeing animals from pain and misery, volunteers successfully liberated 50 Turkeys from an Eastern factory farm.

This action means these sentient beings were spared from constant suffering, their lives destined to be cut short with the blade of slaughterhouse machinery. No longer will their existence be to fill the mouths of a salivating and greedy nation. They now exist as valued individuals, remaining happy and free.

Love and liberation for Sarah and all other captive individuals!
Animal Liberation Front"

This isn't a new phenomenon. After a US court convicted the SHAC 7 on "animal enterprise terrorism" charges for running a controversial website, underground activists retaliated. And after lawmakers passed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, underground activists retaliated.

The outrageous prison sentences, the scare-mongering legislation, the spying: it's not deterring underground activists. It's only giving them one more reason to fight.

But lets stop for a moment so we can truly appreciate the absurdity of this situation. This is what the global "War on Terrorism" has become: a "animal rights terrorist" sentenced to two years in prison for rescuing a dog, and the "terrorist" retaliation is… saving more lives.

The new vegetarianism: meat is more murderous than ever

by John Harris, The Guardian

Back in April, under the auspices of a campaign titled No Meat No Heat, around a million people in Taiwan - including the speaker of parliament, the environment minister, and the mayors of Taipei and Kaohsiung - vowed to never again touch flesh nor fish. Given that Taiwan's Buddhist traditions mean around 1.2 million of its people are already vegetarian, this was perhaps not such a bold move as it seemed, but still: the organisers of the mass pledge cited the often overlooked contribution of livestock farming to greenhouse gas emissions, and presented it as an environmental move par excellence.

The decisive arrival of the current food crisis must be making them feel

new vegetarianism (Continued)

even more righteous. As daily news reports now remind us, there are three key factors behind the rocketing price of the most basic foodstuffs: the rising cost of oil, swathes of agricultural land being given over to biofuels, and the fact that the increasing affluence of China and India is spearheading an explosion in the demand for meat and the feed needed to produce it.

From there, it is only a small step towards an argument that is rapidly gaining ground: that with more than 850 million people going hungry, using huge amounts of water, grain, energy and land to rear livestock is a luxury now officially beyond us. This may suggest the arrogant west once again telling the rest of humanity to refrain from what we have happily done for years, but there is another way of thinking about it: à la the contraction and convergence model for tackling climate change, if we are to accommodate other countries' increased demand for meat, we will have to drastically reduce our own.

As the Alcoholics Anonymous mantra would have it: my name is John Harris and I am a vegetarian. I haven't eaten meat or fish since Christmas 1984, when I had my share of the Christmas turkey, and then quit. I can faintly recall arguments about the inbuilt inefficiencies of meat-eating, but the decision of this particular hard-bitten 14-year-old was based on two different considerations: first, a belief that it was wrong to kill sentient creatures to eat them; and second, that living without meat was an integral part of the 80s counterculture that set itself against the adult world, international capitalism, and Margaret Thatcher. With the arrival of the Smiths' album Meat Is Murder in 1985, everything became clear.

If only for reasons of space, we'll have to leave vegans out of this - but in the intervening 20-odd years, it's been strange to watch vegetarianism ooze so easily into the culture. The great post-PC backlash that began in the mid-1990s seemed to briefly threaten its quiet ascendancy - but though avowed British herbivores still form a pretty tiny minority (between 2% and 8% of us, according to polling), their influence is obvious. The recent story of British meat consumption may essentially be one of fish, chicken and processed meat supplanting our appetite for beef, pork and lamb straight from the butcher's block, but the parallel growth of vegetarian food has been astonishing: after well over a decade of year-on-year surges, the research firm Mintel reckons that the annual value of the British "meat-free" market is about to reach £780m.

In the midst of such progress, there has only been one drawback: the ongoing and inevitable association of vegetarianism with a very British piety (with the onset of age, one begins to understand Orwell's very reasonable distaste for the people he described as "vegetarians and communists"), and the mixed-up morals of the hardcore animal rights lobby. In 1999, I went to see Morrissey in concert, and heard him compare the meat industry's transgressions with slavery and the Nazi genocide; down the years, I've regularly confronted the assumption that refusing meat and fish somehow puts you in tight alliance with the people who seem to think that medical vivisection is a bigger problem than, say, human hunger.

Now, thankfully, there comes this new vegetarian(ish) agenda, and the chance to make the case against meat-eating on more level-headed grounds: that even if meat will remain part of most people's diet, they are going to have to eat less of it; and that right now, this is actually more about human lives than those of animals.

Newsnight recently ran an item on the arguments for cutting down, stuffed with the requisite statistics; for example, whereas it takes 20.9 square metres of land to produce 1kg of beef, to come up with the same weight of vegetables, the figure is 0.3 square metres. In the ensuing studio discussion, even the pro-meat contributor agreed that the world would now "have to value meat more highly", and Gavin Esler enthusiastically quizzed the vegetarian advocate, rather than trying to tear him to bits. By the end, one got the impression that they were discussing something almost unanswerable. In the short-to-medium-term, it may well be the price of meat rather than high-minded ethics that sends sales of Quorn through the roof. Nonetheless, something is up: the possibility of a decisive sea-change that, back in the days of Smiths albums and endless lentils, would have been unimaginable. Millions of Britons following the Taiwanese and pledging en masse to go herbivorous may seem unlikely - but then again, I wouldn't rule it out.

Vivisection: Scientists Use 6% More Animals For Research

by James Randerson

The number of scientific procedures carried out on animals rose by 6% last year to just over 3.2m. The vast majority (83%) used rodents, while the number of procedures that involved monkeys was down 6% with 3,125 monkeys being used in total.

The overall increase is due largely to the continued trend for researchers to use more genetically modified mice and fish in experiments. Creating GM animals involves two steps of breeding and these animals are counted in the figures as having undergone a scientific “procedure”. In 2007, 1.15m GM animals were used, a rise of 11% on the previous year. Over a third of all procedures in 2007 were breeding animals.

“As the volume of medical research increases, which we all want to see, then the overall volume of legitimate and useful animal experiments will increase despite steps taken to minimise their use,” said Liberal Democrat MP Dr Evan Harris, who is a strong supporter of the regulated use of animals in scientific research. He welcomed the use of more GM animals because he said this was a refinement that would make animal use more relevant to human diseases.

Iain Simpson of the Oxford group Pro-Test agreed: “We view the increase in the use of transgenic animals used as especially positive as it shows that academics are continuing to use innovative new methods to find cures for life threatening diseases.”

The figures, which were released by the Home Office this morning, show that 83% of procedures used rats, mice and other rodents, 10% used fish and 4% used birds.

The number of procedures carried out on dogs was up 600 (9%) while the number carried out on cats dropped by 216 (41%) and the number of cattle procedures was down 2000 (39%). Genetically normal animals were used in 1.73 million regulated procedures (54% of the total), up 5% on the 2006 figures.

The total number of animals used was 3.125m, an increase of 6%.

Home Office minister Meg Hillier said: “As the regulator we ensure that a proper balance between animal welfare and scientific advancement is maintained; and that the regulatory system is effective, efficient and impartial … Advances with non-animal test methods continue to be made, but at present licensed animal use remains essential to develop improved health-care technologies.”

Groups who oppose animal testing condemned the figures, pointing out that they represented an increase of 21% in animal experiments since Labour came to power.

“In 1997 animal welfare tokenism may well have been a vote winner for Labour. But it has resulted in an eleven year record of failure that has now seen the number of animals dying in British laboratories reach three million for the first time in 16 years,” said Wendy Higgins of the Dr Hadwen Trust. “If the government doesn’t take urgent action to implement a clear strategy to replace animals with advanced techniques, Labour’s legacy for lab animals will be an appalling failure.”

She said that 0.00002% of Britain’s science budget was spent on government funding of non-animal replacements.

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

An astonishing 38 anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office from the mexican ALFsince our last newsletter, adding to the 30 from last quarter. There were a number of actual liberations, as well as continued support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from some of the 48 total messages received :

March 16, 2008
It is truly nasty, degrading and authoritarian what laboratories, places of animal inquisition, do to our animal brothers and sisters simply to conduct tests and to be able to adorn the vanity of women.

We cannot conceive why the mind of the human animal has come to such a degree of degeneration that it no longer cares what happens to our brothers and sisters of other species. The capitalist system and those that sustain it are unique culprits of the very humilating way that animals in laboratories, factory farms, circuses, aquariums, butcher shops, etc. are treated.

So in the early morning of March 16 of this year, a cosmetics business was attacked with paints on their floor and shutters by the ALF. COSMETICS = ANIMAL TORTURE! What was left was created for people to read and get a little bit of conscience. As dawn was still young, 5 butcher shops in Mexico State were also attacked with various paints, and the lamps which illuminated the businesses were shattered.

Down with speciesist businesses!
Go vegan sXe
ALF Mexico

March 24, 2008
The bomb threat during the night of March 24 in Ecatepec, Mexico State, against the murderous multinational KFC is a response to the inexcusable and unacceptable Holocaust of non-human animals suffering at the hands of international businesses such as KFC, Burger King and McDonald's. For their ways of torturing and killing our animal brothers in their factory farms they deserve to feel terror and intimidation by radical activists and actions that directly target their property and even attacks that harm the physical integrity of those who profit at the cost of the torture and killing of animals....

We are the Animal Rights Militia and one of our principles is to fight against speciesism, which is nothing more than an anthropocentric idea imposed on the human animal over all those other species that live around them, making them see them as objects, food, clothing or entertainment; we believe that the capitalist system is to blame for how far this idea has gone in the minds of people; the mind has degenerated to such an extent that the consequences are two other antisocial frustrations: sexism and racism have been created by the most inhumane and immoral system that is speciesist, globalized, neo-liberal capitalism."

Complete Spanish communique:
Amenaza de bomba reivindicada por las MDA en el Estado de México

'La vida de cualquier animal es más valiosa que la de aquel hombre que es capaz de torturarlo.' Ronnie Lee (fundador del F.L.A)

La amenaza de bomba perpetuada la noche del 24 de Marzo en Ecatepec Estado de México a la multinacional asesina KFC, es solo una respuesta al holocausto imperdonable e inaceptable que sufren los animales no humanos en las manos de los negocios internacionales como KFC, Burguer King y Mc Donalds, pues por sus maneras de torturar y asesinar a nuestros hermanos animales en sus granjas de concentración se merecen sentir el terror y el amedrentamiento por activistas radicales y acciones que ataquen directamente a sus bienes materiales y hasta ataques que dañen la integridad física de aquellos que se lucran acosta de la tortura y la matanza de animales. Así como es un gran ejemplo de que los gobiernos sean cuales sean sus posturas políticas se callan la información y no se atreven a exponerla debido a que sienten la presión entre las manos.

Somos las Milicias por los Derechos de los Animales (MDA) y uno de nuestros principios es luchar en contra del especismo, que no es mas que una idea antropocentrista que impone al animal humano (o sea el hombre y la mujer) sobre todas las demás especies que viven a su alrededor haciéndolas ver como objetos, comida, vestimenta, diversión o mercancía; consideramos que el sistema capitalista es el culpable de que esta idea haya ido tan lejos en la mente de la gente pues la ha degenerado a tal grado que por consecuente otras dos frustraciones antisociales como el machismo y el racismo han sido creadas por el sistema mas inhumano y desmoralizado como lo es el capitalismo-neoliberal-globalizado-especista.

El especismo es la actitud más atroz que hasta ahora ha tomado el mono degenerado, (el hombre) pues al empezar a utilizar a sus hermanos como objetos sin valor alguno, esta cayendo en uno de los grandes errores que ha cometido la humanidad; la mayoría del pueblo mexicano piensa que un animal solo es un ser que vino a la tierra a servir al hombre, y nosotros como activistas radicales de las MDA decimos NO, pues los animales igual que el ser humano son seres inteligentes, sintientes, nobles, están llenos de sentimientos, pero con la única pequeña diferencia de que ellos no se organizan en contra del cazador que los asesina solo por diversión o por deporte; no se reúnen para hablar y hacer una huelga en contra de la empresa que esta succionando su leche, que les quita sus huevos y las viola por inseminación artificial, que les quita a sus crías para vender su carne en centros comerciales; ellos no toman las armas para defenderse del humano que los pesca en grandes cantidades, les corta las patas o las escamas y los echan vivos en agua hirviendo; ellos no toman piedras para aventarlas contra los que pretenden despellejarlos vivos y quitarles sus cálidas y hermosas pieles para venderlas a los burgueses mas ignorantes, vanidosos y exigentes; ellos no cortan las cadenas que los tienen atados en los circos para liberarse; ellos no rompen las peceras que los tienen encarcelados para salir corriendo al lago mas cercano; ellos no evitan que

les pongan algodón en las orejas y en la nariz, que les achaten los cuernos, y les golpeen los riñones para cansarlos y salir a enfrentar a un riquillo cobarde que se siente dios por ser solo un torero mediocre; ellos no preparan una contraofensiva para rescatar a sus hermanos de las guarras de la vivisección, de universidades, de los laboratorios farmacéuticos, militares y de cosméticos donde sufren infinidad de pruebas dolorosas, innecesarias y inenarrables; en donde a monas preñadas las meten a un cuarto donde lo llenan de humo de cigarro mientras la mona solo piensa en su cría que esta recibiendo el humo del cigarro, golpea con fuerza las paredes del cuarto ¿y todo para que? Para que los sádicos asesinos vestidos de científicos vean cual es la deformación más horrorosa que sufre el changuito bebe al nacer; en donde a perros les colocan mascaras que reciben al igual, el humo del cigarro y otras drogas como el alcohol hasta no poder mas, para ver que tan destrozados quedaron sus pulmones y los riñones de los perros; en donde a los ojos de los conejos les vierten detergentes líquidos y en polvo para ver que tan irritados y que tan dañados quedaron de la vista; puercos, monos y demás animales con usados en la industria militar, exponiéndolos a explosiones radiactivas, nuevas armas toxicas y demás; donde ratones, perros y gatos son enfermados con diversos tipos de canceres, SIDA entre otros para encontrar una posible cura para el humano desconsiderado e inconsciente de que la medicina solo es un pretexto para que ricos y poderosos ensanchen mas sus carteras drogando a la gente, dándoles remedios y no un fin absoluto a su problemática enfermedad.

Se puede ver solo en este pequeñísimo escrito sobre el abuso a los animales que ellos no pueden defenderse solos y necesitan de alguien para poder estar felices y ser libres; el humano ha creado solo para él y su especie los derechos humanos, garantías que los amparan de alguna posible violación hacia ellos, entonces si existen los derechos humanos también existen los derechos animales los cuales casi nunca se respetan y los cuales como MDA defenderemos, pero ya no con métodos pacíficos de lucha, la situación exige la radicalización del actuar cotidiano del activista que luche en verdad por la liberación animal, el gobierno fascista de FECAL, como todos los del mundo están en complicidad con los asesinos de animales y no permitiremos que se pisoteen los derechos de las especies indefensas.

Sagarpa, Semarnat, al igual que otras instituciones esbirras y títeres de los intereses de destrucción ambiental y animal del imperio estadounidense solo ignoran las protestas de grupos ambientalistas, veremos si las siguen ignorando cuando el MDA haya atentado en contra de estos ignorantes sin consideración alguna a su trabajo.

Con esta amenaza de bomba queremos exponer la idea de un nuevo estilo de vida, mas ético, más responsable y más humano hacia la opinión publica, que es el veganismo, la dieta que rechaza la total utilización de productos animales de la alimentación distorsionada y cotidiana del pueblo mexicano en su conjunto, no carne, no huevo, no lácteos, es la consigna que como veganos radicales del MDA adoptamos, pues los productos animales son solo el resultado de la tortura y de una vida de esclavitud a la que son sometidos los animales por medio del hombre, su ciencia y su tecnología; consideramos que los productos animales a la larga también son dañinos para la salud de las personas, creando diferentes tipos de canceres, infartos, diabetes y demás enfermedades que se pudiera haber prevenido con una alimentación vegetariana o en sus mejores casos, vegana.

Los productos animales en su conjunto no son solo dañinos para la salud de las personas y/o son producto de el genocidio animal; sino también se consideran una de las causas del cambio climatológico, pues si todas las millones de hectáreas de arboles talados para la cría de ganado porcino, bovino, equino, entre otros, sirviera para el cultivo de frutas, verduras y legumbres, alcanzaría a dar de comer a la mayoría de la población mexicana y mundial, resolviendo casi por total el hambre en el mundo; pero como los intereses de poder siempre están por encima de los de las mayorías trabajadoras, nos toca a nosotros, el pueblo, tomar los medios que nos llevaran a ese fin.

Las MDA antes de declararse socialista, anarquista, izquierdista o cualquier línea política de aquellas, nos declaramos veganistas y libertarios, luchamos y soñamos con una revolución libertaria-vegana, en donde la explotación del hombre por el hombre, así como la explotación del animal humano al animal no humano, pasen a la historia como una vergüenza más; no estamos de acuerdo ni con el capitalismo ni con el socialismo, pues sus modelos económicos se apoyan en una base antropocéntrica de dominación y explotación a nuestras hermanas animales para sobresalir y demostrar cual sistema es el satisface las necesidades mas elementales de la población, aunque sea solo para una pequeña cúpula en el poder .

La realización de una revolución libertaria-vegana es una tarea difícil y sabemos bien que si este gobierno cae en determinado momento por las masas descontentas y sube uno nuevo, nuestro deber como activistas radicales será seguir luchando igualmente con la misma dureza con la que luchamos contra el gobierno pasado, pero lo que no podemos soportar es quedarnos sentados viendo las taranovelas o el futbol, viendo pornografía por internet u otros medios o andarnos drogando con opios legales e ilegales, consumiendo como estúpidos sin cerebro en centros comerciales o preocupándonos por pertenecer a una moda efímera y sin sentido, teniendo sexo promiscuo o tragando grandes cantidades de productos animales, andar queriendo bajar de peso o tener una figura agradable para la sociedad o andar golpeando emos como la mayoría de la juventud inepta mexicana lo hace, liderados por grupos de la extrema derecha gobiernista y desviando a la verdadera juventud revolucionaria a golpear y a ser intolerantes con los que no son “normales”; por estas y variadas razones declaramos el comienzo de una guerra contra el especismo y contra todas las personas que lo sostienen, no queremos perder el tiempo e invitamos a todos los jóvenes que no lo pierdan tampoco.

Queremos agregar que seguimos con mucha atención las nuevas noticias de la huelga de la UAM, de la lucha en contra de la ley del ISSSTE, de las marchas magisteriales, de los conflictos mineros, de las acciones llevadas a cabo en el norte del país con los campesinos oponentes al TLC, de la reagrupación del pueblo de Oaxaca para con la APPO, de la represión que diferentes gobiernos de la república ejerce contra la Otra Campaña, de las agresiones paramilitares sufridas en contra las comunidades zapatistas, de la continua lucha del FPDT de Atenco, de la situación de los mas de 600 presos políticos del país, de la creación de la Asociación de Padres de Hijos Masacrados el Primero de Marzo a raíz del genocidio por el pro yanqui gobierno Colombiano, de los grandiosos ataques al estado Mexicano de la guerrilla del EPR y de las declaraciones de demás comandos armados; además de seguir la nuevas noticias de demás descontentos sociales, queremos decir a todas estas organizaciones que la verdadera libertad no es entre mujer, hombre, clases etc sino también entre los animales, no se puede estar hablando en un mitin o en una reunión de libertad, igualdad y justicia mientras quien habla se come la carroña de algún animal que quería ser libre, que fue esclavizado y que sin mas ni menos fue condenado a morir en contra de su voluntad.

Hacemos una importante declaración, las MDA no tenemos ningún contacto ni linde con alguna organización ambientalista, protectoras de animales, vegetariana, política y ni nos interesa, no intenten amedrentar el espíritu luchador por la liberación animal, pues si contestan con violencia, autodefensa tendrán.

Queremos hacer una cordial invitación a toda persona de buen corazón que sepa de algún animal encerrado, torturado, maltratado y demás, a que rescate y libere su vida, aunque sea con métodos “ilegales” como lo llama la moral burguesa; así como empezar una serie de acciones descentralizadas de sabotaje económico a laboratorios de vivisección, a circos con animales, a corridas de toros, a rodeos, a empresas y tiendas de pieles, a negocios de carne, a mataderos, a restaurantes multinacionales y nacionales de comida rápida, a tiendas de caza, a rastros, o cualquier negocio que se enriquezca a costa del sufrimiento animal, utilizando la Acción Directa organizada como un método para poner fin o tan siquiera hacer menos el holocausto animal, ahora lo que menos importa es lo cuantitativo, lo que importa es la cualidad de las personas que se decidan a seguir nuestro llamado, recuerda el miedo es

la esclavitud.

¡Guerra al estado y al especismo asesino!
¡Viva la lucha del Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA/ALF)!
¡Viva la lucha del Frente de Liberación de la Tierra (FLT/ELF)!
¡Viva la lucha del Departamento de Justicia (DJ/JD)!
¡Vivan las Milicias por los Derechos de los Animales (MDA/ARM)!
¡Hasta que todos sean libres!
24 de Marzo 2008 México Clandestino

April 22, 2008
We, the masked avengers of the Animal Liberation Front released around 40 Blue Iris mink from the breeding stock at Jefferson Fur Farm, 1477 SE Talbot Road, Jefferson, OR. Breeding records containing genetic history were also permanently destroyed. It will be a hard road ahead for these mink and their offspring, but with our help they now have a chance at survival. These animals are not capitalist commodities to be bought and sold for fashion or vanity, but unique individuals deserving of liberation from human exploitation. Even if some of the mink do not make it we feel it is better to die free, then at the hands of their speciesist captors.

To the Posches, owners of Jefferson Fur Farm: Consider this your first warning. Tear down this death camp and let the mink live free. If you don't we will be back to finish the job.

To others concerned with the well-being of fellow living beings. First and foremost, go vegan. If you've been vegan for a while, it's time to start looking up animal abusers in your area and doing the research for how to effectively cripple them. Work in small affinity groups, be cautious always--macho never, and never give information if captured. It's time for animal rights to move beyond consumer sub-culture, towards an active liberation movement, which threatens the capitalist commoditization of life and the speciesist ideology itself.

We want to make it very clear that we will not be intimidated by the states continued witch hunt against the earth and animal liberation movements. Draconian prison sentences and repressive legislation will not deter us from our goal of total earth, animal, and human liberation. For every liberator you throw in prison, there will two more to take her place. For every activist's house you raid, there will ten times that many cages emptied. You can take our freedom, but you will never extinguish the flame that burns in our heart. Let your passion mirror the animals oppression and our persecution. --ALF-Cascadia

April 24, 2008
An incindiary device was left under a Staples delivery truck in Garden Grove, CA. We did this due to Staples continued support of Huntington Life Sciences (the notorious animal murder and torture laboratories.)

Unmarked Staples trucks have been spotted making deliveries to the HLS lab in the UK. Trying to sneak in with unmarked vans... shame on you Staples executives.

Now you have to think about this, do you, as a company with stires and wharehouses filled with paper want to take a stand against those of us who are notorious for bringing fire??? DO THIS: Cut your ties with HLS.

A note to acticists out there: If Staples doesn't cut those HLS ties lets get busy eh? Those stores are everywhere. KEEP THE PRESSURE ON HLS! We can and will shut them down. -ALF

May 13, 2008
Action: Incindiary device left under Staples delivery truck.
Action: Small explosive device inserted into exhaust system of additional Staples delivery truck. (If it hasn't been activated yet, it will as soon as it gets hot enough.)

When: Two consecutive nights, The last week of April.
Where: San Diego area.
Reason: Staples support of HLS in the UK is unacceptable. When you should be seeing animal torture and murder you are seeing profits instead. We hope to clear that up for you and to guide you towards the proper ethical choice.

This will continue (so many of those trucks...) until the CEO of Staples USA and Staples UK publically, and permanently cut ties with HLS.

May 22, 2008
Following the recent sentencing and imprisonment of fighters for animal liberation (Eric McDavid, Rod Coronado and the unjust arrest of Sean Kirtley), activists united in the Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA) of Mexico could not remain unarmed and without demonstrating our total rejection of the system of 'security' of the major world powers (in this case England and the United States) who are accomplices in murderous speciesism, both executioners and true genocidal murderers of our mother earth and our animal brothers and sisters.

That is why the FLA has carried out a direct action against the dirty fur business in Mexico State. In the evening of May 19, red paint was spilled on the doors of such a business, its walls, curtains and windows were redecorated as well with paint-filled bulbs, thus demonstrating our small and sincere yet at the same time strong support to our fellow prisoners, to those who not only have dreamed of animal liberation but have carried it out, to those who risked their lives to liberate and to avenge the lives of others, to those who left fear behind and decided to take to the street and not to join those vegans who only avoid consuming animal products and do not see the real struggle moving forward from there.

As a cell of the FLA we are enraged to know that the capitalist system burdens us by creating aberrant behaviors and sicknesses (like speciesism, machismo and racism) which surround all those who want it to change, it hurts us but we push forward in the struggle for animal liberation when we hear that another compañero is in the dungeons of the bourgeoisie, from Mexico we send a warm embrace of solidarity and our most sincere support for these three who are condemned. Forward! Not one step back!

They may be able to censor our words and our deeds, but never our ideas! The day will come when the cages will be opened and finally they will see a new freedom. Give up on this struggle-- NEVER! FLA/ALF

Original Spanish:
A raíz de las últimas sentencias y encarcelamientos a los combatientes por la liberación animal (Erick Mcdavid, Rod Coronado y el arresto injusto de Sean Kirtley) en estos días, los activistas conglomerados en el Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA) de México no nos pudimos quedar inermes sin demostrar nuestro total repudio al sistema de “seguridad” de las grandes potencias mundiales (en este caso Inglaterra y Estados Unidos) cómplices del especismo asesino, solapadores de los verdugos y verdaderos terroristas genocidas de nuestra madre tierra y nuestros hermanos y hermanas animales.

Es por eso que el FLA ha llevado a cabo una acción directa en contra del sucio negocio peletero en el Estado de México, cuando por la noche del 19 de Mayo, pintura roja fue derramada en las puertas de dicho negocio, así como sus paredes, cortinas y ventanas quedaron redecoradas con bombillas de pintura podrida, mostrando así nuestro pequeño y sincero pero a la vez gran apoyo a nuestros camaradas presos, a aquellos que no solo han soñado con la liberación animal sino que la han llevado a cabo, a aquellos que arriesgaron su vida por liberar y vengar la vida de otros, a aquellos que dejaron el miedo atrás y decidieron salir a la calle y no formar más parte del grupo de gente que se dice vegana y se queda sólo en no consumir productos de origen animal y no ver que le verdadera lucha no solo se queda allí.

Como célula del FLA nos provoca rabia saber que a pesar de que el sistema capitalista crea estos comportamientos aberrantes y enfermos (como lo es el especismo, el machismo y el racismo) encierre a todos aquellos y aquellas que lo quieran cambiar, nos duele pero nos empuja a seguir en la lucha por la liberación animal oír que un compañero mas esta

detrás de las mazmorras de la burguesía, desde México mandamos un caluroso abrazo de solidaridad y nuestro mas sincero apoyo a estos tres condenados, ¡ADELANTE! ¡NI UN PASO ATRÁS!

¡Podrán censurar nuestras palabras y nuestros hechos, pero jamás nuestras ideas!Pero el día llegara en que las jaulas se abrirán y verán por fin la nueva libertad. ¡Claudicar en la lucha JAMAS! FLA/ALF

June 13, 2008
Today as in years past we are living through a violent attack of the speciesist states against fighters for the liberation of animals and the earth. Confinement in apocalyptic prisons is an example of the fact that this movement is growing worldwide and that companies such as HLS fear those hooded saboteurs following them in the streets.

Many have fallen into government cages but one of those many prisoners is the young anarchopunk JJ of the group Active Slaughter in the United Kingdom, arrested in May of last year and accused of conspiring against HLS. The Frente de Liberacion Animal de Mexico wanted to show our support to that companero, so on the night on June 9, spilled paint on the walls and floors of the headquarters of DHL (company linked to HLS), their windows were shattered by strong hammering and they were painted with 'HLS freedom for JJ' and 'Break with HLS.'

Solidarity with imprisoned activists!
For the liberation of animals, humans and the earth!
Down with HLS! FLA

Spanish:
Hoy en dia, como en otros anos posteriores se esta viviendo una envestida del estado especista en contra de los luchadores de liberacion animal y de la tierra, el encierro en las carceles apocalipticas es solo el ejemplo de que este movimiento esta creciendo a nivel mundial y empresas como HLS tienen terror que los encapuchados saboteadores siguen en las calles declarandoles la guerra.

Son muchos los que han cando en las jaulas de gobiernos antropocentrista pero uno de aquellos tantos presos es el joven anarcopunk JJ del grupo Active Slaughter del Reino Unido, arrestado en Mayo del ano pasado y acusado por conspirar contra HLS; por parte del Frente de Liberacion Animal de MÃ©xico quisimos demostrar nuestro apoyo a aquel compaÃ±ero, pues la noche del 9 de Junio, se derramo pintura en las paredes y pisos de una de las sedes de DHL (empresa ligada a HLS), sus vidrios quedaron destrozados por fuertes martillazos y se pinto "HLS libera a JJ" y "Rompe con HLS".

A Solidaridad con los activistas presos! A Por la liberacion animal, humana y de la tierra! A Abajo HLS! FLA

June 13, 2008
At the start of last week, in Irvine, CA, a van owned by UCLA went up in flames. For all of those affected you have the UCLA primate vivsection program to blame.

It is unacceptable for us to see, hear, and know what is going on in our animal labs without taking action. Every time we pass someone like Arthur in the hallways and have to witness his stomach churning grin or watch Joaquin double checking the door locks on his little red Mercedes we have to choke back a crippling amount of disgust and hatred. It is becoming almost impossible to hold back. Then we hear the monkeys wailing and screaming and we find the strength to stay put.

We are driven to show the world the compassionless support that UCLA gives to these monkey killers and to do anything we can to end the needless suffering that the primates are forced to face.

The end of UCLA vivisection is coming. We urge you to start switching over to non-animal protocol without haste. -LA ALF

June 14, 2008
On the night of June 14 (International day in support of the earth liberation warrior Jeffrey Luers and all radical environmental prisoners), the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front got together and went to the doors of one of the many companies guilty in the domination, destruction and extermination of the earth and its living beings.

Various slogans were painted such as 'No More Vivisection,' 'ALF,' 'No HLS,' 'Support Jeffrey,' 'Murderers' and others which attacked the company Unilever which shares property with DHL (an HLS supporter). Now as one passed through these modern-day extermination camps, one can read the slogans of the FLA and FLT on most of its walls.

Compañero Jeffrey we know about your situation and it gives us great pleasure to know that soon you'll be out here on the front line fighting again like you've done before.

We hope that those bars and life in prison leave you with even more strength to continue. To all those radical environmentalist prisoners, an embrace from Mexico.

For Animal Liberation! For Earth Liberation!
For Human Liberation! Direct Action!
FLA & FLT

Spanish:
La noche del 14 de Junio (Día internacional en apoyo al guerrero liberacionista de la tierra Jeffrey Luers y los presos ecologistas radicales) el Frente de Liberación dela Tierra y Animal conjuntamente coordinados, fueron hasta las puertas de una de las tantas empresas culpables de la dominación, destrucción y exterminio de la tierra y de sus seres vivientes.

Variadas pintas como "Vivisección no más", "ALF", "HLS no", "Apoyo a Jeffrey", "Asesinos" y demás sacudieron la empresa Unilever que comparte sus inmobiliarios junto con DHL (soporte de HLS)ahora al pasar por estos campos de exterminio modernos en la mayoría de sus paredes se puede leer las consignas del FLA y del FLT.

Compañero Jeffrey sabemos de tu situación hoy en día de y nos da mucho gusto saber que pronto estarás acá afuera en la línea del frente luchando como tu lo has de hacer.

Esperamos que esos barrotes y esa vida de presidio te de mas fuerzas para salir adelante. Para todos los presos ecologistas radicales, un abrazo desde México.

¡Por la liberación Animal! ¡Por la liberación de la Tierra!
¡Por la liberación Humana! ¡Acción Directa!
FLA & FLT

June 19, 2008
On the night before May Day 2008, about 50 'game birds' were released from a facility on Moore Road in Ruckersville, VA that supplies 'canned hunts'. The action is dedicated to the memory of the passenger pigeon."

June 28, 2008
On June 1 the bottler and distributor of the multinational coca cola was attacked in Mexico state; its walls were covered in paint and a large painting at the entrance read, 'Multinational murderers;' the attacks do not stop and will go on increasing.

Solidarity with prisoners of Austria! For animal liberation!
For the liberation of the land! For human liberation!
Sabotage and direct action! FLT/ELF

Spanish:
El 1 de Junio fue atacada la embotelladora y repartidora de la multinacional coca cola en el estado de México, sus paredes amanecieron derramadas de pintura y como al igual una gran pinta en sus entradas que decía “Multinacionales asesinas”, los ataques no paran y van en aumento.

¡Solidaridad con los presos de Austria! ¡Por la liberación animal!
¡Por la liberación de la tierra! ¡Por la liberación humana!
¡Sabotaje y acción directa! FLT/ELF

July 19, 2008
Kudos to whoever lit that UCLA van ablaze a couple of weeks ago. Your action inspired us to look into these vans as well. You were right. They are everywhere.

We effectively removed one of them from it's location in Riverside county last weekend. The funding that UCLA spent on purchasing this particular van will be redirected to save animals rather than the torturing of monkeys that UCLA is doing. Awashed in shame and the blood of innocents UCLA will continue to be held accountable. Hopefully by a rapidly growing number of people doing whtever it takes.

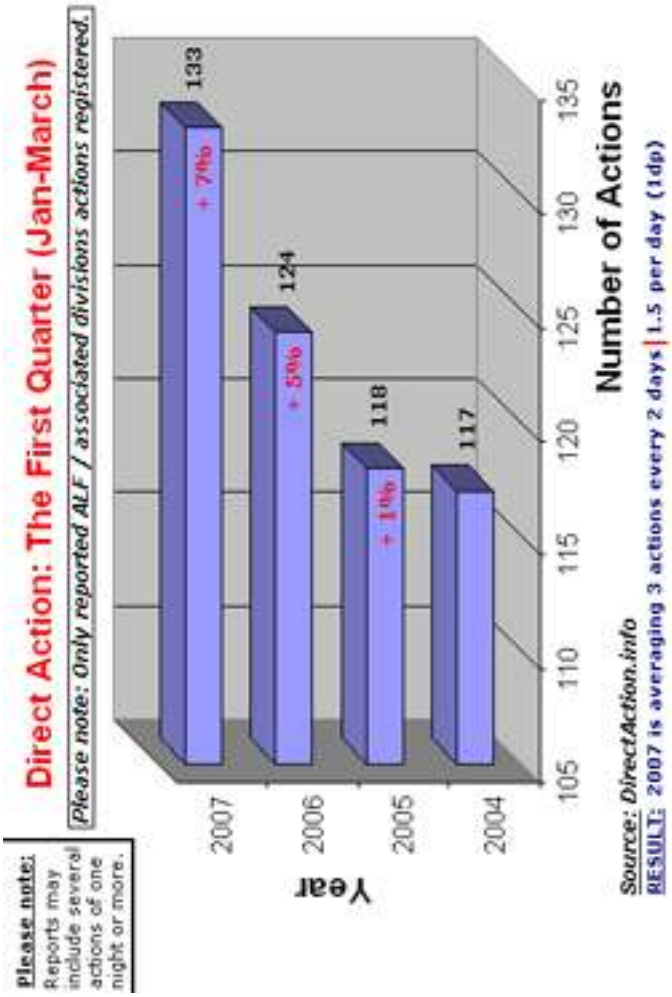
Activists: GET OUT THERE!!!

July 29, 2008
Mexico State - July 25:

'Pet' stores are one of the preferred businesses of animal traffickers, and by being directly or indirectly related to them they are accomplices in incarceration, depression and the madness of these beings who were trapped in their natural habitat, placed behind a showcase, snatched from their families and deposited in small prisons for the selfishness and greed of the degenerated monkey.
For all this and more, a radical response must be given now against today's prevailing anthropocentric system; that's why in the morning of the date indicated the Frente de Liberación Animal – Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) went to a pet shop (still closed) breaking a glass showcase and rescuing 3 mice prisoners there.
There is no excuse not to fight, preaching animal liberation is no longer enough, carrying out actions is essential.

This action dedicated to Sarah Whitehead
México: FLA-CVN

Las tiendas de 'mascotas' son uno de los negocios mas preferidos de los traficantes de animales, pues al estar directa o indirectamente relacionados con éstos son cómplices del encarcelamiento, depresión y hasta locura de lxs seres atrapadxs en su habitad natural, puestxs detrás de una vidriera, arrebatadxs de sus familias y depositadxs en pequeñas prisiones por el egocentrismo y avaricia del mono degenerado.
Por todo esto y más, una respuesta radical contra el sistema antropocéntrico hoy imperante se debe dar ahora, es por eso que por la mañana de la fecha indicada el Frente de Liberación Animal – Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) se dirigió a una tienda de mascotas (aun cerrada) rompiendo una vidriera y rescatando a 3 ratones allí reclusos.
No hay escusas para luchar, pregonar la liberación animal ya no basta, llevarla acabo es esencial.



To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich;to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart; to study hard; to think quietly, act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common- this is my symphony. -- William Henry Channing 1839

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jonathan Paul #07167-085
FCI Phoenix
Federal Correctional Institution
37910 N 45th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
FCI Terre Haute
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers #13797671
CRCI
9111 NE Sunderland Ave
Portland, OR 97211-1708

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Re-sentenced to 10 years!

Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher #36360-086
FCI Dublin
5701 8th Street- Camp Parks- Unit F
Dublin, CA 94568

Nathan "Exile" Block #36359-086
FCI Lompoc
3600 Guard Road
Lompoc, CA 93436

Unrepentant eco-warriors convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of their co-defendants, both are currently serving 7 years 8 months and are scheduled for release in 2012.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
93501-011
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- **Released!**

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
93497-011
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
29429-086
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
93502-011
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
26399-050
FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1500
BUTNER, NC 27509

Kevin Olliff 706097, CID#287574
Santa Barbara County Jail
4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Jailed February 2008 on theft-related charges. Committed animal rights activists who has organized against HLS.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
In Transit, New Address Next Issue

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
PRESS OFFICE

2008 Year- End Report on Animal Liberation Activities in North America

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office
www.animalliberationpressoffice.org

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North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Table of Contents

- Dedication Page 3
- Introduction Page 3
- Press Officers Page 4
- Monthly Actions and Totals Page 5
- Year- End Totals Page 17
- Graphs and Tables Page 17
- Targets and Tactics Page 19
- Activists in the News Page 20
- Future Directions Page 25
- Prisoners Page 26
- Snitches Page 28

Dedication

These words are written as a reminder of the billions of animal lives lost this year on the altar of human greed. We remind ourselves also of those who have risked their freedom and their lives to rescue as many as possible from their hellish fate.

Introduction

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood.

Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" and "terrorist" with no attention paid to the suffering that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also tries to provide a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals. While the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.), is currently the most active liberation group, the Press Office will report on ANY act of animal liberation, and provide the press and general public with information on the actions and ideology behind them.

The following report summarizes direct action taken on behalf of innocent, oppressed, non-human animals in North America during the 2008 calendar year.

Press Officers

Lin Bingham is a writer, graphic designer, and screen printer living in Albany, NY. His primary goal has been to speak out for animal, human, and earth liberation, but more importantly, to point out that all of these movements are in fact the same struggle against the same enemy. If asked to describe his talents in one phrase he would likely respond "propaganda and agitation."

Lin is available to speak on animal liberation topics at seminars, conferences and anywhere else where one or more people are willing to listen and interact.

Camille Hankins After 20 years of corporate experience, Camille Hankins abandoned a lucrative career in IT Consulting to devote her time and energy to animal liberation. She brings a wealth of marketing, resource development and management experience to the animal rights movement, coupled with over 15 years of grass roots animal rights campaign experience. Camille launched the New York Animal Liberation Front Supporters (NY-ALFS), which promotes a better understanding of the underground animal liberation movement through public speaking and educational outreach.

In 2004, Camille co-founded the group Win Animal Rights (WAR), focused primarily on the campaign to close Huntingdon

Jerry Vlasak, MD is a board-certified surgeon specializing in trauma and critical care. He is a former vivisector who has seen the agony of animals in laboratories. He debates the scientific invalidity of animal experimentation around the world, speaks out about the benefits of a vegan diet and offers lectures on the right of all sentient beings to live free of pain and suffering. His essays and interviews have been published in numerous journals and magazines and he has been interviewed on radio, TV and in print by journalists worldwide regarding animal rights. He resides in Los Angeles.

MONTHLY ACTIONS AND TOTALS

2008 has been quite the busy year here at the Press Office. Over the course of the year, we received anonymous communiqués from activists taking responsibility for nearly 200 illegal actions on behalf of animals. That means that, on average, we received a communiqué every 44 hours.

DECEMBER 2008

- 12/29 John Hopkins- Letter bombs (United States)
- 12/27 Poultry shop windows smashed. Closed for good (Mexico)
- 2/25 Turtle Liberated (Mexico)
- 12/22 2 Slaughterhouse trucks burned (Mexico)
- 12/22 5 Telmex phones sabotaged (Mexico)
- 12/20 20 Telmex phones sabotaged (Mexico)
- 12/17 Bullring burned (Mexico)
- 12/26 25 dogs liberated from pound (Mexico)
- 12/15 Berkeley computers hacked (United States)
- 12/14 Rodeo burned, Stores and restaurants painted and locks glued (Mexico)
- 12/12 25 Telmex phones sabotaged (Mexico)
- 12/12 UCLA van sabotaged (United States)
- 12/8 Georgia butcher shop, meat market and fast food restaurants sabotaged (United States)
- 12/7 2 Bochco trucks sabotaged (Mexico)
- 12/6 12 Telmex phones and 1 truck sabotaged (Mexico)
- 12/4 Leather expo burned to the ground (Mexico)
- 12/4 KFC windows smashed (Mexico)
- 12/3 Mendele Leather and Fur painted (Mexico)

DECEMBER TOTALS

- United States- 4
- Mexico- 13
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 1 turtle, 25 dogs
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 5
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 11

NOVEMBER 2008

- 11/30 UCLA clinic painted (United States)
- 11/30 20 hens liberated from egg farm (Canada)
- 11/27 25 windows broken at pet shop and 14 windows smashed at KFC (Mexico)
- 11/25 UCLA vivisection's vehicle burned (United States)
- 11/25 Vehicles belonging to the owner of circus get painted, windows smashed (Mexico)
- 11/24 Cock breeders' sign vandalized (Mexico)
- 11/21 6 windows smashed and message painted at cock breeders (Mexico)
- 11/19 5 rabbits liberated from pet store (Mexico)
- 11/18 Egg distributor vandalized (Mexico)
- 11/18 Poultry company sign vandalized (Mexico)
- 11/18 Banner dropped in Oklahoma City in support of Rod Coronado (United States)
- 11/17 Refrigerated meat truck sabotaged (Mexico)
- 11/14 Windows smashed at an animal control center and a seafood restaurant (Mexico)
- 11/13 30 Telmex phones sabotaged (Mexico)
- 11/13 McDonalds and Burger King painted and locks glued (No Location Specified)
- 11/13 UCSF vivisector has front doors locks glued (United States)
- 11/10 4 Telmex phones painted (Mexico)
- 11/10 10 Fake bombs and incendiary devices left at multiple fast food restaurants (Mexico)
- 11/9 Burger King burned (Mexico)
- 11/9 Vegan slogans painted on freeway (Mexico)
  11/9 Bachoco truck sabotaged (Mexico)
- 11/9 UC Berkley vivisector has front of home painted and locks glued (United States)
- 11/8 8 Hens liberated from truck (Mexico)
- 11/4 Cars at UCLA sabotaged (United States)
- 11/2 37 Telmex phones sabotaged (Mexico)

NOVEMBER TOTALS

- United States- 6
- Mexico- 17
- Canada- 1
- Liberated animals- 28 hens, 5 rabbits
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 3
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 18

OCTOBER 2008

- 10/28 Pet shop painted (Mexico)
- 10/26 Multiple businesses painted and windows smashed (Mexico)
- 10/24 KFC sabotaged (Mexico)
- 10/21 Incendiary device left at Burger King (Mexico)
- 10/20 Chicken company truck burned (Mexico)
- 10/17 1500 mink liberated from Oregon fur farm (United States)
- 10/17 12 UCLA vans sabotaged (United States)
- 10/16 Fake bomb left at Burger King (Mexico)
- 10/15 KFC painted (Mexico)
- 10/14 Locks glued at California Burger King (United States)
- 10/11 30 Shops have their locks glued (Mexico)
- 10/10 3 Bachoco Poultry trucks and a trailer painted (Mexico)
- 10/8 Locks glued at 10 pet shops (Mexico)
- 10/6 2 UCLA vans sabotaged (United States)
- 10/6 UCLA vivisectors car paint stripped (United States)
- 10/6 UC Berkley vivisectors windows smashed (United States)
- 10/4 Cock breeder's windows damaged (Mexico)
- 10/3 McDonalds and Burger King painted, KFC's windows kicked in (Mexico)
- 10/1 FedEx shipment to HLS destroyed (United States)

OCTOBER TOTALS

- United States- 7
- Mexico- 12
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 1,500 mink
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 3
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 15

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 9/28 HLS supplier DHL's windows painted (Mexico)
- 9/27 Burger King painted (Mexico)
- 9/26 KFC painted (Mexico)
- 9/24 McDonalds and Burger King signs defaced (Mexico)
- 9/22 10,000 mink liberated in Utah (United States)
- 9/21 locks to 25 meat shops glued (Mexico)
- 9/19 HLS supplier DHL has the locks of one of their trucks glued (United States)
- 9/17 25 hens and 8 turkeys liberated from factory farms, one of which is now closed (Canada)
- 9/15 Birds liberated from breeder (Mexico)
- 9/14 Meat markets sabotaged (Mexico)
- 9/13 Cages opened at Worldwide Primates in Florida (United States)
- 9/11 Egg distributor and seafood restaurant painted (Mexico)
- 9/10 Meat shops damaged (Mexico)
- 9/9 McDonalds billboard defaced (No Location Specified)
- 9/8 150 mink liberated from Oregon fur farm (United States)
- 9/6 Tavern and meat truck painted (Mexico)
- 9/6 cockfighting breeder gets property painted (Mexico)
- 9/5 HLS customer Novartis gets painted (Mexico)

SEPTEMBER TOTALS

- United States- 4
- Mexico- 12
- Canada- 1
- No Location Specified- 1
- Liberated animals- 10,150 mink, 25 hens, 8 turkeys, unspecified amount of "game birds", as many as 20 primates
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 0
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 13

AUGUST 2008

- 8/29 Rabbit liberated from pet store (Mexico)
- 8/29 McDonalds, Burger King, and KFC bathroom toilets clogged (No Location Specified)
- 8/28 Fur store painted (Mexico)
- 8/28 Meat market painted, equipment stolen (Mexico)
- 8/28 Meat shop and restaurant painted (Mexico)
- 8/28 Pet store and restaurant painted (Mexico)
- 8/27 4,000 mink liberated from fur farm (Canada)
- 8/26 Seafood restaurant in Portland has locks glued (United States)
- 8/24 McDonalds and Burger King painted, 2 crab traps sabotaged (United States)
- 8/20 Faculty of Chemistry at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México painted, windows smashed (Mexico)
- 8/20 10 Meat markets have locks glued (Mexico)
- 8/20 Shops painted (Mexico)
- 8/18 300 Mink released from fur farm in Utah, Breeding cards destroyed (United States)
- 8/18 KFC in Kansas painted (United States)
- 8/18 Incendiary device left at KFC (Mexico)
- 8/11 2 UCLA vans expropriated (United States)
- 8/11 McDonalds in Kansas painted (United States)
- 8/11 Restaurants painted (Mexico)
- 8/10 Pet store defaced (Mexico)
- 8/2 Mcdonalds painted (Mexico)

AUGUST TOTALS

- United States- 6
- Mexico- 12
- Canada- 1
- No Location Specified- 1
- Liberated animals- 1 rabbit, 4,300 mink
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 1
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage 15

JULY 2008

- 7/25 3 mice liberated from pet store (Mexico)
- 7/19 UCLA van expropriated (United States)
- 7/15 Circus trailers painted (Mexico)
- 7/11 KFC sabotaged (Mexico)
- 7/6 11 shops have their locks glued (Mexico)
- 7/3 Meat distributor painted, truck sabotaged (Mexico)
- 7/1 KFC painted (Mexico)

JULY TOTALS

- United States- 1
- Mexico- 6
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 3 mice
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 0
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 6

JUNE 2008

- 6/28 Coca Cola distributor painted (Mexico)
- 6/26 Pet shop painted (Mexico)
- 6/26 HLS supplier Staples has plumbing clogged (United States)
- 6/19 Arson at leather expo (Mexico)
- 6/19 50 birds released from "game farm" (United States)
- 6/14 HLS suppliers Unilever and DHL painted (Mexico)
- 6/13 UCLA van firebombed (United States)
- 6/13 DHL offices attacked, windows smashed, slogans painted (Mexico)
- 6/1 Cock fighter's home painted (Mexico)
- 6/1 Mendele Leather Company painted (Mexico)

JUNE TOTALS

- United States- 3
- Mexico- 7
- Canada-0
- Liberated animals- 50 birds
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 2
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 7

MAY 2008

- 5/29 Meat stores and pet store painted (Mexico)
- 5/22 Fur business painted (Mexico)
- 5/13 2 California Staples stores attacked. Slogans painted, windows etched, and locks glued (United States)
- 5/13 Incendiary devices left in 2 Staples delivery trucks in California (United States)
- 5/11 2 restaurants and 2 meat markets attacked (Mexico)
- 5/10 2 restaurants painted (Mexico)
- 5/9 Restaurant owner's truck painted (Mexico)
- 5/5 KFC Painted (Mexico)
- 5/2 Milk distributor painted (Mexico)
- 5/1 Pet store painted (Mexico)

MAY TOTALS

- United States- 2
- Mexico- 8
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 0
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 1
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 9

APRIL 2008

- 4/29 200 mink liberated from Washington state fur farm (United States)
- 4/24 KFC painted (Mexico)
- 4/24 Incendiary device left under Staples delivery truck in California (United States)
- 4/24 Circus trucks painted (Mexico)
- 4/22 40 mink liberated from Oregon fur farm. Breeding records destroyed (United States)
- 4/22 3 restaurants painted (Mexico)
- 4/21 Restaurant windows smashed, kitchen sabotaged (Mexico)
- 4/21 Hardees in North Carolina has windows and glass door smashed (United States)
- 4/18 Several Bachoco locations painted (Mexico)
- 4/15 KFC has windows etched (Mexico)

APRIL TOTALS

- United States- 4
- Mexico- 6
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 240 mink
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 1
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 7

MARCH 2008

- 3/27 Butcher shop gets painted, lamps and floodlights busted, locked glued (Mexico)
- 3/24 KFC gets bomb threat (Mexico)
- 3/22 Mendele Leather gets painted (Mexico)
- 3/20 3 butcher shops painted (Mexico)
- 3/16 Cosmetics firm and 5 butcher shops painted (Mexico)
- 3/14 Pet store and meat shop painted (Mexico)
- 3/11 KFC gets painted, windows etched (Mexico)
- 3/8 2 restaurants painted, windows etched (Mexico)
- 3/7 KFC painted (Mexico)
- 3/6 7 Restaurants painted (Mexico)
- 3/4 Duck liberated (Mexico)
- 3/1 Bachoco painted (Mexico)

MARCH TOTALS

- United States- 0
- Mexico- 12
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 1 duck
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 1
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 10

FEBRUARY 2008

- 2/25 3 outdoor grills sabotaged (Mexico)
- 2/22 Incendiary device left at the home of vivisector (United States)
- 2/20 9 billboards and a Honey Baked Ham store painted (United States)
- 2/12 3 goats liberated in California (United States)
- 2/10 Arson at Bachoco shop (Mexico)
- 2/9 12 locks glued at stores who sell Novartis products (Mexico)
- 2/6 13 Locks glued at various targets (Mexico)
- 2/5 3 restaurants painted (Mexico)
- 2/5 47 rats liberated in California (United States)
- 2/4 2 restaurants painted (Mexico)

FEBRUARY TOTALS

- United States- 4
- Mexico- 6
- Canada- 0
- Liberated animals- 3 goats, 47 rats
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 2
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 6

JANUARY 2008

- 1/31 Restaurant painted (Mexico)
- 1/30 4 HLS related targets painted, locks glued (United States)
- 1/30 McDonalds pipes clogged in NYC (United States)
- 1/24 Wendy's billboard painted (Canada)
- 1/21 Bachoco market painted (Mexico)
- 1/21 Glass door shattered at restaurant in Baltimore (United States)
- 1/20 KFC firebombed (Mexico)
- 1/17 Chief to the mayor of Los Angeles has 2 cars in his driveway paint stripped (United States)
- 1/16 2 turkeys liberated from farm in South Carolina (United States)
- 1/15 4 puppies liberated (Mexico)
- 1/14 Fast food restaurant in Texas sabotaged (United States)
- 1/11 Circus tent and trucks painted (Mexico)
- 1/8 rabbit liberated in South Carolina (United States)
- 1/4 2 doves and 1 turkey liberated (Mexico)
- 1/4 Fur store painted (Mexico)

JANUARY TOTALS

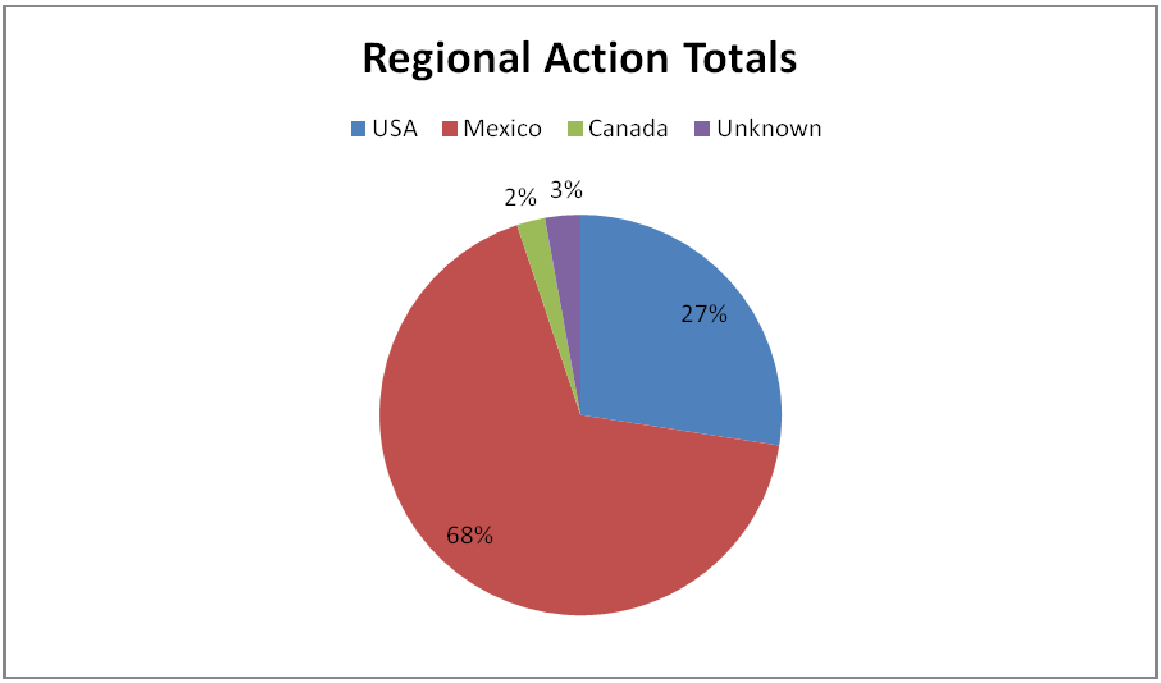
- United States- 7
- Mexico- 7
- Canada- 1
- No Location Specified- 3
- Liberated animals- 3 turkeys, 1 rabbit, 2 doves, 4 puppies
- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 1
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 10

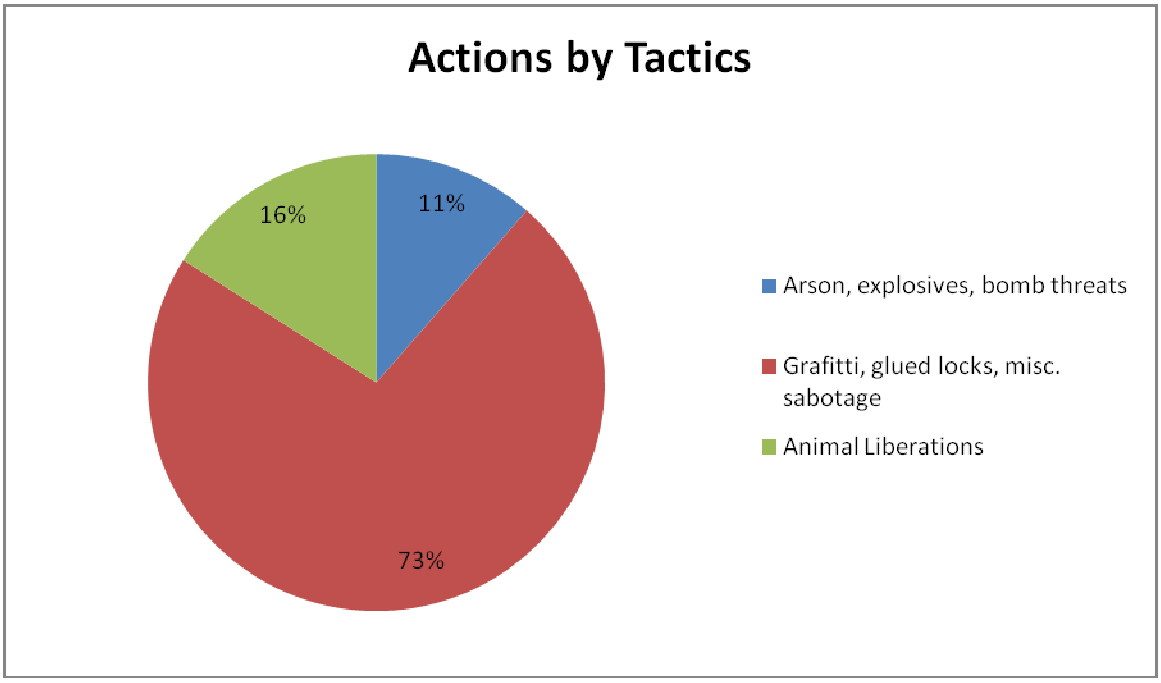
YEAR END TOTALS 2008

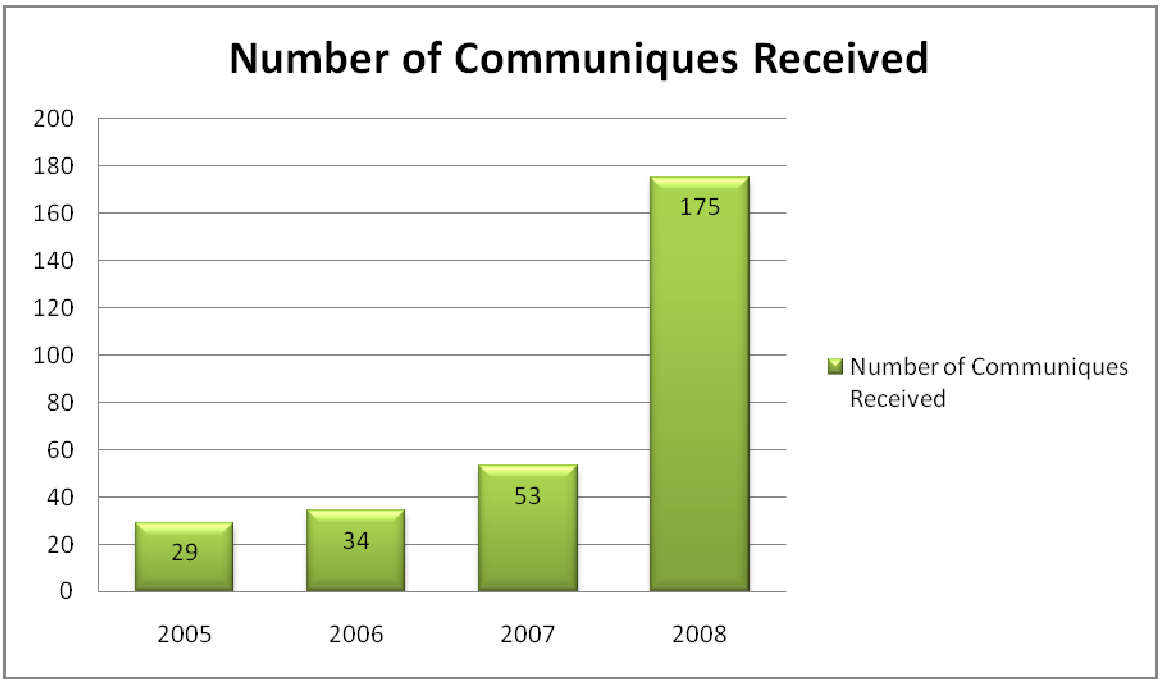
- United States- 48
- Mexico- 118
- Canada- 4
- Liberated animals-

  - ✓ 16,190 mink
  - ✓ 23 hens
  - ✓ 50 rats/mice
  - ✓ 50 unspecified birds
  - ✓ 29 dogs
  - ✓ 20 primates
  - ✓ 11 turkeys
  - ✓ 7 rabbits
  - ✓ 3 goats
  - ✓ 2 doves
  - ✓ 1 duck
  - ✓ I turtle

- Arson/explosives/incendiary devices/bomb threats- 20
- Graffiti/ property destruction/ glued locks/ misc. sabotage- 127




Actions by Tactics
11%
16%
73%
Arson, explosives, bomb threats
Grafitti, glued locks, misc. sabotage
Animal Liberations


Number of Communiques Received
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
29
34
53
175
2005
2006
2007
2008
Number of Communiques Received

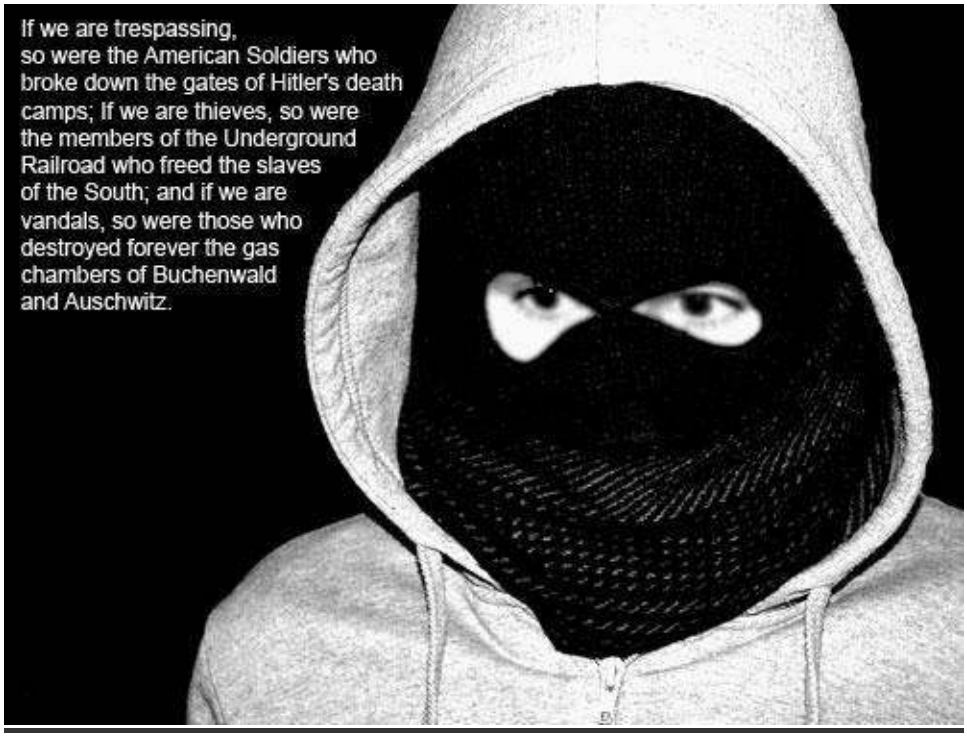
Targets and Tactics

The majority of fast-food related actions involved the spray painting of slogans, smashing of windows, and gluing of locks. Other related targets included meat, dairy, and egg distributors.

The fur and leather industries took major hits this year, as North America saw at least 9 fur farm raids, for a combined total of 16,190 liberated mink. Also, Mexican activists burnt a local fur and leather market to the ground.

HLS continued to be the focal point of the aggression of activists all over the continent. Hundreds of protests and 15 illegal actions have put HLS on the top of everyone's "Companies needing to be shut down this year" lists.

Also in the crosshairs of anti-vivisection activists was the University of California. The schools continue to be targeted on multiple campuses and with a wide array of tactics. The activists involved saw their First Amendment rights thrown out the window, as protests and home demos became illegal and restraining orders were filed against almost everyone on the "above ground" end of this battle. Luckily for the animals though, there are people in California who concern themselves less with what is legal and more with what is right. The university has seen its' passenger vans sabotaged on a regular basis and several researchers have had incendiary devices left under their cars or on their doorsteps.


If we are trespassing,
so were the American Soldiers who
broke down the gates of Hitler's death
camps; If we are thieves, so were
the members of the Underground
Railroad who freed the slaves
of the South; and if we are
vandals, so were those who
destroyed forever the gas
chambers of Buchenwald
and Auschwitz.

Activists in the News

3/27 Rod Coronado was sentenced to a year in prison.

(AP) A radical environmentalist was sentenced Thursday to one year and one day in federal prison for speaking publicly about how to make a homemade Molotov cocktail.
Rodney Coronado apologized for his past use of violent tactics in the name of animal rights and the environment, and said he had cut his ties to groups, including the Earth Liberation Front.
"I have done things in my past that I now regret," Coronado told U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey Miller. He said he wanted to serve his sentence and then get on with his life in Tucson, Ariz.
The 41-year-old activist pleaded guilty in December to distributing information on destructive devices during an August 2003 speech about militant environmental activism at a community center in San Diego.
According to an account and photos of the speech posted on the Internet, Coronado demonstrated how to build a crude ignition device using a plastic jug filled with gasoline and oil.
The speech was given just hours after an arson fire destroyed a San Diego condominium project that was under construction a few miles away. A banner at the site indicated that the ELF claimed responsibility for the $50 million blaze, which at the time was the costliest act of eco-terrorism in U.S. history.
Coronado, who once acted as a spokesman for the group, arrived in San Diego after the fire broke out and has never been linked to the blaze.
Prosecutors accused Coronado, a longtime environmental activist renowned for helping sink whaling ships and destroying mink farms and animal research labs, of wanting people to follow in his footsteps.
He told The Associated Press after being charged in February 2006 that he had renounced violence and favored educating people about environmentally sustainable living rather than engaging in the sabotage efforts favored by environmentalists in the 1980s and 1990s.

Coronado's lawyers argued his innocence under the First Amendment. A trial in September ended with a hung jury.

His plea deal in December came after prosecutors agreed to drop efforts to prosecute Coronado for other speeches.

Coronado, who faced up to 20 years in prison under post-Sept. 11 terrorism legislation, was ordered to surrender by May 9.

Coronado previously served nearly five years in federal prison for his involvement in a 1992 arson at a Michigan State University mink research facility. He also

served eight months in prison for trying to disrupt a 2004 mountain lion hunt in Arizona by pulling up sensors and disabling snare traps."

5/28 Tre Arrow accepts plea deal.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An environmental activist and former fugitive who once won thousands of votes in a congressional election pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal charges under a deal that would send him to prison for two years.

Tre Arrow, 34, pleaded guilty to the destruction of concrete-mixing trucks in Portland in April 2001 and to firebombing logging trucks at a contested logging sale near Mount Hood in June 2001. He had faced up to 40 years in prison if convicted of two counts of arson.

In a separate case, a radical environmentalist who helped federal officials round up a militant cell of arsonists was sentenced Tuesday in Eugene to five years of probation.

Jacob Ferguson pleaded guilty in October to arson and attempted arson for his role in a series of 20 fires set across the West from 1996 to 2001 to protest logging and environmental damage. Officials said the fires caused more than $40 million in damage.

Ferguson built many of the incendiary devices used by the small militant cell of the Earth Liberation Front that was nicknamed "the Family," according to

court records. He became an informant in 2004 as investigators were closing in on the group.

Ten other radicals were sentenced to federal prison last year after pleading guilty to arson and other crimes claimed by the Earth Liberation Front and a sister group, the Animal Liberation Front, from 1996 to 2001.
The FBI claims Arrow is also associated with ELF. He insisted he gave no information to implicate others as a part of his plea deal. Nothing said in court Tuesday countered that.

The plea bargain calls for a 78-month sentence with credit for the time Arrow served in a Canadian prison since his March 2004 arrest in British Columbia on shoplifting charges. He was returned to the United States in February.

Arrow is to serve his time at a medium-security federal prison at Sheridan, southwest of Portland. U.S. District Judge James A. Redden said he is not allowed to have contact with either ELF or ALF after his release.
Formal sentencing was scheduled for August.

Arrow legally changed his name from Michael Scarpitti because he said the trees told him to do so. In 1998, he was arrested in Cincinnati wearing a pink bunny suit outside a Procter & Gamble Co. executive's home. He was charged with leafleting without a permit and fined $130.
He moved to Oregon and joined protests organized by the Cascadia Forest Alliance. He scaled the offices of the U.S. Forest Service in Portland in the summer of 2000, perching on a narrow ledge for 11 days.

Arrow suffered a broken pelvis in October 2001 when he fell 65 feet from a tree after a two-day standoff with police and loggers in the Tillamook State Forest. He ran for Congress in 2000 as a Pacific Green Party candidate, winning nearly 16,000 votes.

Arrow pleaded guilty Tuesday to aiding in the destruction of a truck used in interstate commerce at Ross Island Sand and Gravel and of burning three logging trucks used in interstate commerce owned by Schoppert Logging Inc., which was to have started cutting trees at the timber sale site. Three other gasoline bombs found in other trucks failed to explode.

6/11 Roger Troen dies

(The Oregonian) Even among fervent animal-rights activists, Roger Troen stood out. He'd be the one costumed as a demented butcher with fake blood and cleaver performing guerrilla theater during an anti-fur protest, or as Colonel Sanders outside KFC protesting factory farming, or chalking the ground outside OHSU's primate center.

About 30 years ago, Roger got the call to his life's purpose - animal rights - and his righteous battle became a nearly full-time focus. At any given time, Roger had either just come from a march or meeting, or from gathering signatures for a shelter reform initiative, or had just written a letter to the editor, or photocopied news releases or his newsletter. But if he got a call to rescue an animal from death row at the Multnomah County animal shelter in Troutdale, he dropped everything.

When Roger got on his soapbox his was a loud, blunt voice, and often a

lonely one. Behind the scenes, he did many of the most menial tasks and he got almost no positive strokes. He was sometimes kicked out of gatherings. Talk shows stopped accepting his calls.

Not everybody knew that the silver-haired man with the steel-blue eyes and the missionary zeal had been convicted for his role in a 1986 Animal Liberation Front raid on an animal lab at the University of Oregon.‡ Although frustrated that people didn't see things his way, he was in no way discouraged. He unapologetically and cheerfully came back to repeat his message: He was there for the animals, not the humans.

Roger was the middle of five children; his mother died when he was a toddler, and in 1936, he moved to a house on North Montana Street in Portland. Practically all the years of his life were spent in that house.

He was raised by his stepmother. His first animal was a cat, Juliet, when he was about 13. He went to Beach Elementary, Benson High School (class of 1949); then Vanport College. He enlisted in the Air Force, and served in Waco, Texas. While in Texas, he converted to the Mormon faith. He graduated from Brigham Young University and taught at Buckman and Astor elementary schools from 1959 to 1969. In about 1970 he came out of the closet and became active in gay rights. By 1979, though, his focus had shifted, and he was rescuing animals.

He ran unsuccessfully for 18th District state representative in 1982, then two years later as one of 19 candidates for Portland City Council.

It was in 1986 that he was the getaway driver for an Animal Liberation Front raid on the UO lab.‡ He escaped driving his aunt's Ford LTD crammed with rabbits and other furry critters at daybreak, with Beethoven blaring on the stereo. Roger took the stolen rabbits to a friend's place on the coast, where a veterinarian discovered their UO‡ tattoos and called police. Roger was arrested and convicted - the only one - of theft, conspiracy and burglary.

When judgment was pronounced - probation, $35,000 fine, house arrest, community service - Roger was wearing a button reading "Can't Kill the Spirit."

Although excluded as a gay man from the Mormon fold, Roger still felt strong ties to the faith. He lobbied for his new church, Metropolitan Community, to honor animal rights, even protesting in church. Here too, he was often frustrated. But he kept on.

A critic of traditional animal shelters, he nevertheless went to the Troutdale animal shelter once or twice a week to get cats or dogs and take them to foster homes.

Every day, he took his list of goals and checked then off, often at Overlook Restaurant, the "battle pavilion" where he planned strategy. He sipped tea and wrote in his journal. His three dogs (Tanner, Lady and Hildigard), four cats (Bigger Boy, Muddy Cat, Creamsickle and Patience) and two unnamed rats, were his children.

Money was a problem. He spent what he had on stamps and photocopies - he never entered the Internet age - and gasoline for his 1986 Toyota pickup to rescue animals. Property taxes for his dilapidated house, where he lived with his partner of 13 years, Steve Nettles, were not as big a priority as paying $1,000 for surgery on a kitten that had swallowed a penny.

He would go into debt for a critter, but suffering from congestive heart failure, would not get himself to the hospital. Two weeks before his death at 77, on April 23, 2008, he went to a shelter reform group meeting with plans for action. But it was a cause with little support.

In 2003, Roger, who also rescued rats - he called himself founder and international coordinator of Rat Allies - wrote an essay for Willamette Week in defense of the rodent. When someone wrote him a short note of appreciation, he was astonished, gratified and humbled. Somebody finally understood what he was trying to communicate.

Roger, who sometimes felt like a martyr, sometimes like a voice crying in the wilderness, said, "Somebody changed their mind today because of something I wrote."

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The animal liberation movement stands at the edge of a line drawn in the sand. Opposing us is an enemy with virtually unlimited resources, driven by greed, and a willingness to use any tactics necessary to line their pockets. This year, more than any other in recent memory, the line in the sand has been made clear between the animal abuse industries and those who oppose them. Our foes are united behind a single- minded goal: to break our will and silence our voices. If they manage to accomplish this, we will be powerless to do much more than watch from the sidelines as they ruthlessly exploit and destroy all life. To win against such overwhelming opposition, we need something more than the same "one-track-mind" mentality. This doesn't mean that we all need to agree with everything that every other animal rights group is doing or saying. We merely need to accept that, despite our differences on tactical issues, we have more in common with each other than we have in common with those oppressing us and exploiting, hurting and killing other animals.

During the past few years, we have seen mainstream "animal welfare groups" turn their backs on the animal liberation movement, such as during the SHAC 7 trial and with the passing of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. The obvious reasoning behind this has been to distance themselves from illegal actions that they feel "dirty" their public image. This is the exact opposite of what we need to be doing if we are going to win. The impression given is that governmental pressure causes those of us not directly in the crosshairs to run and hide. It gives a clear roadmap to destroying us as an effective movement.

If we are serious about animal liberation as our long- term goal, we need to immediately end our destructive infighting. We need to get over the idea that not "rocking the boat" will keep us safe. The animals need us fighting for them, and we cannot do that effectively if half of our energy continues to be spent bickering among ourselves. The sooner the above- ground and underground factions of our movement, of all persuasions, learn to work beside each other as a united front, the sooner we will live in a world free of animal abuse, torture, and slaughter.

PRISONERS

ECO-DEFENCE PRISONERS

Tre Arrow, #70936065, FCI Herlong, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 800, Herlong, CA 96113, USA. Awaiting sentencing having reached a non-cooperation plea-bargain with the authorities who accuse him of involvement in two arsons. 1) an arson on logging trucks 2) an arson on vehicles owned by a sand & gravel company. (Tre is a raw energy vegan - He has asked that his letters of support are written on scrap paper or tree-free paper).

Grant Barnes #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, PO Box 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for setting fire to a number of SUV vehicles. The letters ELF were spray painted onto all of the vehicles. (Grant is a vegan).

Nathan Block #36359-086, FCI Lompoc, Federal Correctional Institution, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving 7 years & 8 months for an ELF arson against a Poplar Tree Farm and an ELF arson against an SUV dealership. Also admitted his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. (Diet unknown).

Jeffrey Luers #13797671, CRCI, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211-1708 ,USA. Serving 10 years for arson on a SUV dealership & the attempted arson of an oil truck. The original sentence was 22 years & 8 months, but was reduced on appeal. (Diet unknown).

Marie Jeanette Mason, Clinton County Jail, 1347 E Townsend Rd., Saint Johns, MI 48879, USA. Awaiting sentencing having pleaded guilty to involvement in ELF arson against a University building carrying out Genetically Modified crop tests. Marie also pleaded guilty to conspiring to carry out ELF actions and also admitted involvement in 12 other ELF actions. Marie is expected to receive a sentence of between 15-20 years. (Marie is a vegan).

Eric McDavid 16209-097, FCI Victorville, Medium II, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19 years & 7 months for planning to destroy the property of the U.S. Forestry Service, mobile phone masts and power plants. At the point of his arrest no criminal damage has actually occurred. (Eric is a vegan).

Daniel McGowan, Columbia County Jail, 403 Jackson Street, Portage, WI 53901, USA. Serving 7 years for an ELF arson against a Poplar Tree Farm and an ELF arson against an old growth logging corporation. Admitted his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. Also recently found in civil contempt for his refusal to answer questions before a grand jury. (Daniel is a vegetarian).

Briana Waters, 36432-086, FCI Danbury, Federal Correctional Institution, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Awaiting sentencing having been found guilty of involvement in an ELF arson on a University. (Diet unknown).

Joyanna Zacher #36360-086, FCI Dublin, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th St - Camp Parks - Unit F, Dublin, CA 94568 USA. Serving 7 years & 8 months for an ELF arson against a Poplar Tree Farm and an ELF arson against an SUV dealership. Also admitted her role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. (Diet unknown).

ANIMAL LIBERATION PRISONERS

Jacob Conroy #93501-011, FCI Victorville Medium I Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 48 months imprisonment for helping organize the SHAC-USA campaign. (Jake is a vegan).

Lauren Gazzola #93497-011, FCI Danbury Route #37, 33 1/2 Pembroke Road, Danbury, CT 06811 USA. Serving 54 months imprisonment for helping organize the SHAC-USA campaign. (Lauren is a vegan).

Joshua Harper 29429-086, FCI Sheridan, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 5000, Sheridan OR 97378, USA. Serving 36 months imprisonment for helping organize the SHAC-USA campaign. (Josh is a vegan).

Kevin Kjonaas #93502-011, FCI Sandstone, PO Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072 USA. Serving 72 months imprisonment for helping organize the SHAC-USA campaign. (Kevin is a vegan).

Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, Federal Correctional Institution, 37910 N 45th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85086 Sentenced to 51 months for an ALF arson on a horse meat plant. Also admitted his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy. (Jonathan is a vegan).

SNITCHES

"For the sake of clarity, let us be uncomfortably honest: to snitch is to take a life. By words and by weapons, each day lives are taken in the most egregious of crimes. When this happens in the courtroom, we call it "cooperation". I call it violence, and I call anything done to keep an informant out of the courtroom "self defense". -- Peter Young, former animal liberation prisoner

Jennifer Kolar

Agreed to give testimony resulting in the convictions of Jonathan Paul and Briana Waters. First Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Bartlett was quoted as saying "It is fair to say that it is highly unlikely the U.S. would ever have solved the mystery of ... the arson at the urban horticulture center without Ms. Kolar's assistance. She was really the lynchpin in breaking that case open."

Frank Ambrose

In April of 1997, Frank began cooperating with the FBI's investigation of the Earth Liberation Front. This cooperation included the wearing of a wire to capture "countless tapes of audio recordings". Frank's cooperation plays a key role in at least 12 ELF related cases, and has lead to the arrest of three other individuals in connection with the 1999 ELF arson at Michigan State University.

Justin Samuels

Justin Samuels is the renowned snitch who offered testimony to imprison animal liberator Peter Young.

"Anna"

Undoubtedly, the most famous snitch in recent memory, Anna gained quite a bit of notoriety in May when the fashion magazine Elle published a multi-page profile on her life as a paid informant for the FBI. "Anna", through her FBI handlers, provided Eric McDavid, Zachary Jenson, and Lauren Weiner with transportation, money, and a cabin, as well as a plan to blow up the Nimbus Damn. The FBI also provided her with the recipe for the explosives involved and the materials to construct them. Eric was sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison. His 2 codefendants, when faced with similar sentences, offered to cooperate with the investigation. Mark Reichel, McDavid's attorney, said: "There has never been a case in America that has involved this much entrapment, this much pushing by an informant, by the U.S. government and by the FBI behind it."

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InThis Issue:

- **Abolition, Liberation, Freedom. Coming to a Fur Farm Near You.** By Gary Yourofsky
- **The Unconventional Liberator** By Peter Young
- **From "Dominion" to Domination: The Duplicity and Complicity of Matthew Scully** by Steven Best
- **FLAM of Mexico** By Olive
- **California Chronicle Scientists Criticize UC Davis Primate Experiments as "Unethical"**
- **The Beginning of the End for Chimpanzee Experiments?** By Andrew D. Knight
- **32 Monkeys Die in Accident at Nevada Lab** By Scott Sonner
- **Who are People Barred from Britain** By BBC News

2008 is the year of "Operation BiteBack II, with at least 8 separate liberations on North American fur farms liberating thousands of our captive mink brothers and sisters. In light of this recent reactivation of the campaign begun in the 1990s, long-time activist and former fur farm liberator Gary Yourofsky weighs in on the long-delayed liberation of these oppressed creatures.

Please consider making **2009** the year that animals can quit waiting for welfarist legislation or the whim of a greedy capitalist to be free from captivity and exploitation. Take action to see that no animal near you remains abused or is killed for the vanity or the entertainment of a perverted human being. And please remember to support the Press Office- we can't continue to spread the word without your help. Donate now with a credit card, bank account, cash or check at our website: **www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/donate.htm**. The animals will one day thank you.

Abolition, Liberation, Freedom. Coming to a Fur Farm Near You. By Gary Yourofsky

For weeks after the events of 9-11, I was transfixed by the news media. CNN, MSNBC, FOX-News, The Today Show, Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, Brian Williams. Report after report. Image after image. The collision. The fireball. The smoke. The collapse. The rubble. The debris. Ground zero. The panic. The response. As a national lecturer on animal rights, and one of the country's most outspoken animal liberationists, I believe I speak for the entire movement when I tell you that we have the utmost empathy for every innocent victim of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. We mourn human tragedy as much as animal tragedy. The notion that animal rights activists are anti-human is an outrageous lie.

We choose to be activists for other species because billions of innocent animals are murdered without so much as a disquieting tinge of guilt from the masses. We are vegans because we realize that violence and hatred must be destroyed at its root, in our everyday habits of consumption.
Missed Opportunities

Shortly after the 9-11 attacks, my faith in humanity was restored temporarily because I witnessed such an outpouring of love, empathy, compassion, and community. The world was condemning evil and the taking of innocent lives. In our unity to find the perpetrators, I wondered if we would understand that murdering any living being was wrong. I hoped that, by a collective awakening to compassion, the terror that humans inflict upon innocent animals for food, clothing, sport, entertainment, and research would end or at least abate.

In a moment of optimistic speculation, I pondered whether the camouflaged-hunters?lurking on American soil, skulking in the distance with guns and bows, waiting to terrorize and kill more than 200 million innocent animals annually—might throw their weapons to the ground?

Would the animal researchers who terrorize 50 million dogs, cats, primates and mice annually in vivisection procedures have a revelation? The March of Dimes experimenters who sew shut the eyes of kittens and ferrets to see if blindness affects their brains would surely stop their barbaric acts of terrorism.

After the 9-11 bombardment, the researchers at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center—who electro-ejaculate primates in order to obtain sperm for their breeding colonies—would make the connection now. Surely, the animal research community was going to be arrested and charged with acts of terrorism. Would terrorist fur-farmers and trappers be sent to prison for breaking the necks of mink, anally electrocuting foxes, genitally electrocuting chinchillas and catching wild animals in steel jaw leghold traps? Would humankind realize that animals do not want to be our food, clothing, entertainment and research specimens? Would we finally understand the words of British Bishop William Inge when he said that if animals ever formulated an organized religion, the devil would be depicted in human form? And would we finally seek to change that image? Would Gandhi's immortal words of peace? "The life of a lamb is no less precious than that of human"? be recited at every school across America?

But not a damn thing changed in human attitudes toward fellow animal species. The routine violence of human customs was swept even further under the rug. The repetitive talk of people revolting against evil sickened me because it was clearly hypocritical and deceitful.

Shamefully, it seems that the hatred that humans have towards nonhumans is so vicious, bitter and entrenched, that a thousand peaceful Gods and Goddesses couldn't eradicate it. For that brief moment, though, I saw a glimmer of hope. Reporters, civilians and government officials kept saying "we will destroy the evil." Unfortunately, they were only referring to the evil people who disrupt the rest of society from performing its own evil deeds.

Each carnivore is responsible for the death and dismemberment of more than 3,000 land animals and thousands of marine animals throughout their lifetime. Annually, in the US alone, over 10 billion cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and other animals live in concentration camps. Within the first year of their pathetic lives, they're sent to killing-houses where knife-wielding terrorists slit their throats, drain their blood and dismember their bodies,

Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defence of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.

Abolition, Liberation, Freedom. (continued)

all-too-often while the animals are still conscious and aware. Sadly, I realized that any lesson learned in the wake of 9-11 was not going to change that.

Path To Liberation

If people truly want to end terrorism, then they should discard animal flesh from refrigerators, toss bows and bullets into the trash, insist that universities close down their vivisection laboratories, demand that department stores close their fur salons, make circuses shift to only human performers, abolish the rodeo once and for all, and support the courageous ALF humanitarians who liberate animals from places of terror. People who yearn for a compassionate world should have nothing but praise for these amazing altruists. Otherwise, any talk of peace, civilization and justice will remain the most hypocritical rhetoric that has ever existed.

Remember, just because an act might be classified as illegal does not make it morally wrong. And just because an act is legal does not make it the best avenue for facilitating substantive change. Laws have always been broken by free-thinking, radical individuals who realize that it is impossible to make progressive changes within a corrupt, discriminatory system.

Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mohandas Gandhi, Henry David Thoreau and Jesus, to name a few, were routine, radical law-breakers who went to jail many times for disobeying unjust laws. We see them as heroes today, but in their time they were considered by many to be law-breakers, villains and radicals. "Radical" has a negative connotation in society today. However it is simply the Latin word meaning "root", and what radicals do is to bypass pseudo-solutions and get to the root of a problem. Everyone should realize that all social justice activists were considered radical in their time. It is only after social justice activists die and society begins to evolve and comprehend their actions that the "radical" is placed on a pedestal and embraced. Without question, ALF liberations are akin to Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad which assisted in the liberation of blacks from white slave-owners. In fact, a wise ALF adage—from an unknown individual—states: "If we are trespassing, then so were the American soldiers who broke down the gates of Hitler's death camps. If we are thieves, then so were the members of The Underground Railroad who freed the slaves from the South. And if we are vandals, then so were those who destroyed forever the gas chambers of Buchanwald and Auschwitz."

One must understand that ALF raids have two goals; giving enslaved animals a chance at freedom and causing major economic damage. As a movement, we must stop living in fantasyland by believing that those directly involved in torturing and murdering animals, and profiting handsomely from it, will listen to reason, common sense and moral truth. The vast majority will not. If they did, there wouldn't be an animal liberation movement because they would have understood the cruelty of their ways by now and adopted a vegan lifestyle.

I am aware that some activists like Howard Lyman and Don Barnes were former abusers of animals who had epiphanies and changed. That's why I said most will not listen to reason. I didn't say never try to educate and enlighten. But in the vast majority of cases, it is just a fantasy to believe that direct abusers collectively will change. What those involved in animal exploitation will listen to, however, is damage to their profits and livelihood. Only if we make their blood businesses unprofitable, will they cease the violence against the animal kingdom.

Remember, since the inception of the animal liberation movement, no human has ever been injured or killed during a liberation or an act of economic sabotage. We need to stop accepting the lies propagated by the media and the corporations who murder animals for a living. ALF activists are not terrorists; those who abuse animals for a living are! ALF activists are not criminals; those who enslave, torture, mutilate, dismember and murder animals for a living are! Activists who liberate animals should not go to prison; animal exploiters should! It should never be viewed as a crime to try and forcibly stop hatred and discrimination and terrorism; it is an act of compassion and courage.

All animals are simply disenfranchised nations in search of the one thing that every sentient being demands: FREEDOM! They are not property. They are not objects. And they are not commodities. The earth and its inhabitants do not belong to humans, under any circumstance. So when inanimate objects—like buildings and machines—are destroyed during an animal liberation, the property-destruction issue is justified because an animal's inherent right to be free trumps economic damage, and buildings that exist to torture living beings deserve to be eradicated forever!

Let Them Read Lies

I believe one main reason why the ALF does not yet have broad public support is because of the lies spewed by animal exploiters and the distortions reported and perpetuated by the mass media. Sadly, animal-killers and their supporters will go to any length to deceive and mislead the public into believing that they are the victims and not the animals. Having inside knowledge of what animal liberation entails, let me give an example of how the propaganda machines work.

On March 30, 1997, I was part of a mink liberation effort at the Eberts Fur Farm in Blenheim, Ontario. We released 1,542 mink from their cages, but were apprehended shortly thereafter. The media reported four lies that are typically issued by the fur industry after liberations: (1) the mink froze to death after freedom; (2) the mink starved to death overnight after freedom; (3) the mink caught pneumonia and became stressed out after freedom; (4) the mink were run over by cars on rural roads at three in the morning after freedom.

Let's look at the facts.

(1) Mink are clothed in natural fur coats which make it impossible to freeze to death, especially during the pleasant month of March/April, which is when my Ontario raid took place.

(2) It takes several weeks for mink to starve to death. It cannot happen overnight. In fact, authorities involved in the Ontario mink liberation stated that the liberated mink raided a nearby chicken farm for food, incontrovertibly exposing the starvation lie. As for the chickens, my heart goes out to them. But my enmity is still enflamed by the 250 million Americans who kill and eat 9 billion chickens to satisfy their meat-addictions. If humans didn't enslave chickens, mink wouldn't raid chicken farms. If humans didn't enslave mink, the ALF wouldn't raid mink farms.

On rare occasions, some people claim that mink attack companion dogs or cats. I have yet to see any proof of this happening. Not one photo of a dead body or a pile of canine or feline bones. So, I believe this is another ploy to divert attention from the real victims; the mink. Even if the mink did attack a dog or a cat, many times dogs attack cats, cats attack birds, and so on. This just proves two other points. In the last 100 years of mink farming, not one wild gene has been bred out of these animals. And after thousands of years of dog and cat domestication, they, too, still possess their wild genes. Being raised in captivity in no way impedes an animals' chance of surviving in the wild.

It should be noted that in the late 90s after the Frye Fur Farm in Illinois was raided—and thousands of mink were given a chance to escape—the fur industry issued a press release claiming how much the Fryes loved and cared for their mink. The release stated the Fryes routinely picked up and played with the mink. Yet, across the waters in England that same year, a liberation of 10,000 mink took place. That release stated that everyone should hide their dogs and cats and children because the mink were vicious animals who would attack and eat everything in sight. Isn't it remarkable that Illinois mink are sweet and cuddly, yet English mink are rapacious and vicious?

The fur industry's public relations people are masters of doublespeak and thereby hide their atrocities from public view. It is obvious that the fur

Abolition, Liberation, Freedom. (continued)

industry can't even get their lies straight. And that's because one lie leads to another.

(3) Mink do not spontaneously contract pneumonia or stress when they are not in cages. Being kept in a cage for your entire life causes stress and neurosis. Freedom is the cure for caged-induced stress and neurosis.

(4) There are no cars on rural roads at three in the morning except for those of fur farmers and police who are trying to recapture the liberated mink. If they backed off and let the mink go, rarely would there be a mink-car casualty.

The fur industry knows that if people were aware of the five methods of death used on mink, foxes and chinchillas, virtually no one would buy a fur coat. The anal electrocutions, genital electrocutions, gassings, neck-breakings and toxic chemical injections are purely evil. So, the fur industry's spin doctors have devised some glittering propaganda in order to divert attention from the heinous methods of death, and the prejudiced media are all-too happy to report them uncritically. The industry and media conspire in an attempt to make animal liberations appear foolish and describe the actions as creating more harm than good.

Any wildlife biologist or veterinarian who is not associated with the fur industry or does not own a fur coat will admit that mink and foxes are wild animals who will undoubtedly survive after being set free. They also will admit that no amount of genetic breeding can take away animals' innate, instinctive survival mechanisms. And let me be perfectly clear: Freedom does not cause death! Hunters, meat-eaters, fur-wearers, leather-lovers and animal-experimenters cause death!

According to the fur industry, 400 mink instantly died after my Easter Sunday raid. Yet on my request, the lawyers asked them to provide proof of the purported 400 dead mink. They were asked to do so by either bringing in photos, dead bodies or testifying under oath. They declined all offers.

Not surprisingly, the death toll quickly descended from 400 to 300 to 200 to 100 to 12. Subsequently, during my three-day trial when I was convicted and sentenced to six months in prison, the furriers brought in photographs of two dead mink who allegedly died the night of the raid.

Now, I did not believe the authenticity of the photos, but for argument's sake, let's say that two mink were run over by the cars of the fur farmers who were trying to recapture the freed mink. Those two deaths are unfortunate. But every mink in the concentration camp was going to die. Opening the cages was the only chance any of them had. The act was justified.

The job of an ALF activist is not to guarantee safety and freedom, but to give incarcerated animals an opportunity to live in freedom. Unfortunately, 1,000 mink were recaptured because they never found the holes in the fence in order to make it across the street to the luscious miles of fields. (According to some authorities who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the official numbers of the Ontario raid were 1,542 released, 1,000 recaptured, 540 escaped and two dead.) However, of the 1,000 recaptured mink who never made it off the grounds through the cut fence-holes, the best news was 70-80 percent of the pregnant ones miscarried their fetuses. The animal rights community does not want animals bred into enslavement. A miscarriage is infinitely more humane than a lifetime of imprisonment, horror and eventual murder.

It's truly disheartening when the media and a majority of society get so upset when enslaved, tortured and soon-to-be-murdered animals are liberated. Yet, these same individuals don't get upset when enslaved, tortured and soon-to-be-murdered animals?who spend their pathetic lives inhaling the fumes of their own excrement?are gassed, anally electrocuted, genitally electrocuted, injected with toxins or have their necks broken manually.

Taking statements without questioning the source is contemptible. Why would responsible journalists heed the words of the police, who are experts at manipulation, and abject furriers, who collectively murder 40 million animals a year for money? If journalists would think rationally instead of trying to fit into the sleazy world of media hype, they could actually produce a brilliant story on ALF humanitarians and the current paradoxes in our society.

People who put their lives on the line for a cause should be commended not condemned. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once stated, "There are some things so dear—some things so precious—some things so eternally true—that they are worth dying for. And if a person has not discovered something that he or she is willing to die for—then that person isn't fit to live."

I wholeheartedly concur!

The Aftermath

For my random act of kindness and compassion on behalf of the tortured and doomed mink, I spent 77 days in prison. (Hilma Ruby, my lone, upstanding compatriot out of the five, spent 60 days in prison.) Canadian Judge A. Cusinato sentenced me to six-months in the Elgin Middlesex Detention Center in London, Ontario. A deportation parole was issued, though, and I returned to Michigan after serving 77 days at the maximum security lock-up. Before being carted off to prison, I was able to address the judge:

I stand before this court without trepidation and without timidity because the truth cannot be suppressed today and the truth will not be compromised. Mohandas Gandhi, one of the most benevolent people to ever grace this earth, once said, "Even if you are only one person the truth is still the truth."

The dilemma we face today is whether this court chooses to acknowledge the truth. The following statement is for everyone's edification.

One day every enslaved animal will obtain their freedom and the animal rights movement will succeed because Gandhi also proclaimed, "All throughout history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants and at times they have seemed invincible, but in the end they always fall. Always!"

The true devoted humanitarians who are working towards the magnanimous goal of achieving freedom for animals cannot be stopped by unjust laws. As long as humans are placed on a pedestal above non-humans injustice to animals will fester because without universal equality one type of equality will always create another type of inequality. There will be no compromise here today because the truth cannot be compromised.

My presence in this courtroom today is paradoxical. I ask this court: If it is NOT a crime to torture, enslave and murder animals, then how can it be a crime to free tortured, enslaved and soon-to-be-murdered animals?

Humankind must climb out of its abyss of callousness, its abyss of apathy and its abyss of greed. Enslaving and killing animals for human satisfaction can never be justified. And the fur industry must understand that the millions of manual neck-breakings, anal and genital electrocutions, mass gassings, drownings, and toxic chemical injections can never be justified. And, the snaring of millions of free-roaming animals in steel jaw leghold traps, who die slow, horrific deaths, is unjustifiable as well.

There will be no compromise, for the truth cannot be compromised. The schism that this court has created among the five co-accused has been sealed. Now that I have been convicted, through my volition and in a symbolic protest of the unjust conditions that animals endure, a hunger strike will begin tomorrow at 7:30 a.m.

For every mink that ever languished in a tiny cage and was savagely

NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION
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Abolition, Liberation, Freedom. (continued)

murdered at the Eberts Fur Farm, I will go hungry. And for the 40 million other animals worldwide who have the skin ripped off their backs in a disgusting display of barbarity, in the name of vanity, I will go hungry.

And if this court expects me to experience an apostasy, meaning an abandoning of my beliefs, it is sadly mistaken. In April of '97, when I was incarcerated for 10 days in a Chatham jail, I briefly experienced, vicariously, what a caged animal goes through. And, thanks to that 10-day bail hearing, my empathy for every mistreated animal intensified.

No matter what I go through during my incarceration and hunger strike, will be nothing compared to the everlasting torture that innocent animals endure on a daily basis.

And if this court is alarmed by my honesty, let me close with a quote from slave abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison: "I will be as harsh as the truth and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think or speak or write with moderation. I am in earnest. I will not equivocate. I will not excuse. I will not retreat a single inch. And I will be heard. The apathy of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal and hasten the resurrection of the dead. My influence shall be felt in coming years, not perniciously but beneficially, not as a curse but as a blessing, and posterity will bear testimony that I was right."

There will be no compromise here today because the truth cannot be compromised.

The Struggle Continues...

During my 77-day incarceration, I felt lifeless, moribund, and enervated. Not from any sort of punishment or correction the system thought it doled out, but from the lack of public compassion and activism for animals. Apathy is a bittersweet plague which leads to nihilism. And nihilism is the father of inertia which results in the death of one's emotions.

The majority of people?submersed in the aversion of revolution?have destroyed their humanity. If one cannot feel, see, nor understand the preciousness of this earth and all of its inhabitants, then why should he or she be blessed with the gift of existence? This planet should be a replica of the most beautiful place imaginable, a place where humans view animals with awe and respect. What a pathetic life I must have led before I heard the cries of the enslaved and the tumult of the animal kingdom. Activism engulfs me. My life is this struggle. From liberator to educator, I continue to fight for interspecies justice.

The Unconventional Liberator

By Peter Young

It is not from animal rights books that we will find the tactics that will bring the next phase of animal liberation. Rather, it is from less conventional sources that the next advances will be sourced. In my reading, I am often both inspired and disappointed that there are people employing more ingenuity for money than you or I ever have for non-human animals. I am inspired by the creativity at work in both legal and illegal pursuits of profit, and disappointed that the plight of the billions slaughtered does not push our ingenuity far beyond that of those who work towards less benevolent motives. It is from this history that those who win the next major achievements for animals will draw from, to move us ahead towards total liberation.

The struggle for Animal liberation will not be won the way other movements have won. This struggle much more different than we admit. Many of the greatest strategies for animals have come not from history or political science books, but rather from the stories of those who have fought for much less noble causes.

The unconventional liberator has read *A Long Road To Freedom*. She has also read books on police science, persuasion psychology, and no-tech hacking. The unconventional liberator has read books on the histories of liberation struggles. He has also drawn selectively from *The Spy's Guide: Office Espionage* and *The Big Con*. The results-oriented activist draws from those who achieve results.

Which should be much more driven than the subjects and authors of these books. More driven than the autograph hound who takes improvisational acting classes fine tune his infiltration skills for getting backstage at a concert, when getting inside the Seattle Fur Exchange would yield so much more. And we should be much more driven than the Arizona burglars who recently shimmied through an air duct to steal purebred dogs from a pet store for resale on the black market, when removing abused animals from a laboratory would be far more virtuous.

The books on liberation struggles and those who have achieved long-term change are both invaluable as well as well studied. Overlooked and no less valuable are those books with hidden gems of strategy and methodology, those books which at first glance appear irrelevant to the issue at hand, but from within come a wellspring of innovative and applicative material.

We will achieve our ends by both education and liberation. And I see for each path overlooked and underdeveloped approaches. For the first, it is primary that we understand the basic psychological principles that govern influence, as marketers have done to sell us their products for centuries. And for the second, learning tactics used by those throughout history of achieving less noble goals. I will give attention here to both, highlighting books that showcase strategies that can be recontextualized and applied towards helping non-human animals.

The Art Of Deception (Mitnick): Private Investigators will tell you that of the cases not solved through publicly available information, the vast majority of their cases are solved through both dumpster diving, and a tactic known as social engineering. Social Engineering (SE) is a collection of techniques used to persuade people into performing actions or divulging confidential information (primarily over the telephone, yet often in person). Using often crude, often sophisticated psychology, the skilled social engineer has the power to finesse information out of anyone, anytime. From persuading a police officer into performing a warrant search over the phone to talking a crucial computer password out of an office clerk, no information is off limits to the skilled social engineer. Utilizing tactics such as prextexting (creating and using an invented scenario to persuade someone to divulge information) to "credibility props" and more, this is an absolutely invaluable tactic to achieve gains in any above or underground campaign. Some information that can be obtained from SE:

- •locations of unknown sites
- •obtaining home addresses for people of interest
- •security protocols
- •and quite simply anything anyone knows which he or she are not supposed to tell you.

Some of the most fantastic stunts in history have been performed not through physical force but verbal finesse. As the opening chapter details, the largest bank robbery in history was performed over the telephone. And we can not doubt assume companies will guard wire transfer codes for 10-figure bank accounts less vigilantly than they will the location of their unlisted satellite research facility.

Access All Areas (Ninjalicious): By the editors of the zine Infiltration ("The zine about going places you're not supposed to go"), A.A.A. is a thorough look at urban exploration. It should need no explaining the myriad of ways in which these tactics for expanding freedom of movement within our landscape can be applied toward animal liberation campaigns.

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The Unconventional Liberator (continued)

Subjects included everything one can imagine under the banner of "going places you are not supposed to go", from bypassing front desk security to obtaining roof access. While the writing is less than stellar, the content is solid and applicable to countless goals and campaigns.

Influence (Cialdini): As a marketing book, this is not immediately apparent as a title offering anything that will achieve victories for animals. *Influence* is a classic work on the psychology of gaining compliance, and details the principals at work in many of the titles described in this article. The book looks in depth at the six principals of influence, and how they can be applied in communications. It is a must read as a supplement to books like *The Art of Deception*, and anyone wishing to improve their success in anything from leafleting to being stopped on a fur farm at midnight.

Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief (Mason): Overlooking the less-than-charitable aims of its protagonist, the reader of Confessions of a Mater Jewel thief finds what is certainly a rarely-used model for the animal liberator: the act of working alone. In light of increased surveillance, repression, and informants, this title offers the incredible story of one of the most prolific and low-tech ventures in history. *CMJT* is the story of one man, using only a grappling hook and flashlight, capitalizing on the doors and windows of most 2nd-story-and-above doors and windows being unlocked and becoming the most successful jewel thief in US history. What nearly every reader may overlook is the hidden lessons in this otherwise mainstream mass-market crime story: solo can be best, and low-tech does not mean low-yield.

Art of Intrusion (Mitnick): Super hacker Kevin Mitnicks follow up to *Art of Deception*, *Art of Intrusion* ("The Real Stories Behind the Exploits of Hackers, Intruders & Deceivers") showcases numerous high- and low-tech exploits. Much of the material is arcane and specialized, yet there are crumbs of valuable advice to be found within. Follow the front-to-back workings of a "penetration test", in which a group of hackers are paid to test a company's security for every imaginable weakness: from perimeter security to document disposal. Stimulates thought on what is possible with a little confidence and a lot of passion.

How to Get Anything On Anyone III (Lapin): With chapters such as "How to see through walls" to "How to track anyone via their cell phone", this title is one of the thickest in the long list of books that teach the tactics of private investigators (and law enforcement). Demystify, then reapply.

Again, be both disappointed and inspired to see people employing more ingenuity for fun and profit than you and I ever have for the animals. Our mission is not only nobler, its short-term gains are more easily achieved. It is the new wave of liberator who knows that only through tactical innovation will we achieve animal liberation.

From "Dominion" to Domination: The Duplicity and Complicity of Matthew Scully

by Steven Best, Ph.D.

In 2002, arch-conservative Matthew Scully wrote a book called, *Dominion: The Power of Man, The Suffering of Animals, and The Call to Mercy*, that was universally and uncritically acclaimed by the animal advocacy movement. Because this movement is overwhelmingly single-issue in its focus, and in most cases doesn't care about a person's views or politics except how they relate to animals, no one had a problem with the fact that Scully was a senior speechwriter for President George W. Bush. He wrote some of the key fear-peddling diatribes that got Bush elected and he also was re-enlisted recently to help Bush sell the Iraq war "surge" to the American people.

As someone who is concerned about a person's overall political standpoint, and would not embrace a Leftist who is a speciesist anymore than an animal rights person or vegan who is a racist, I had some serious problems with Scully and the fawning adulation of his book by virtually the entire animal advocacy movement. Many people such as Wayne Pacelle and Karen Dawn saw it as a key sign of progress that the conservatives were embracing the animal cause (in welfarist form), and thus that animal advocacy could be introduced to an entire new audience of people, and some very rich, powerful, and influential ones at that.

No one mentioned that Scully had blood all over his hands by sycophantically serving Bush-Cheney (providing the "eloquence" they lacked) and the neo-con invasion and occupation of Iraq – all at the cost of nearly 100,000 innocent Iraqi lives, over 4,000 US troop deaths and countless casualties and destroyed lives, and at the cost of over three trillion dollars.[i] And all based on lies and blatant deceit by Bush and his henchmen, all of whom – were there any justice in this country or backbone in the Democrats – would have been impeached and jailed for crimes of the highest order.

Nor could I understand the praise over Scully's book. Really, *Dominion* is two books: the first sections are indeed well-crafted and hard-hitting critiques of factory farming and hunting. But the bulk of the book was just nauseating, amateurish, antiquated medieval/early modern natural law theory which tried to justify the critique of animal cruelty in cosmic laws, rational imperatives, as if the issue of animal welfare or rights were not controversial and could not be seen in endless ways by diverse groups of people. It had a very uncomfortable authoritarian tone to it: here are the moral laws of the universe; here is moral truth. And he urged the same naïve Socratic belief that contaminates the thinking of the pacifists who dominate the animal advocacy movement – the idea that if we can only reason with people, show them this "Truth," they will no longer abuse animals. As if there were no violence and cruelty in the human heart, no desire to dominate the weak, no lust for profit off slavery of any group.

And consider the subtitle: notice that he is calling for MERCY (to the slaves) not LIBERATION (of the slaves). And we needed a burdensome arsenal or arcane metaphysics, philosophical, and legal theory to reach this conclusion? A few rights/abolitionist voices tried to expose the severe limitations of this overwrought speciesist and welfarist tome, but they were drowned out by the roar of the multitudes celebrating the movement's "revolutionary" breakthrough into new social sectors -- so "new," in fact, that there were now more white, elite, and "privileged" people in the animal advocacy/vegan movements than before.

Not surprisingly, one of Scully's strongest supporters is Wayne Pacelle, who told me himself in 2002 that he was "very close friends" with Scully and thought his book was a "groundbreaking" contribution to animal (welfare) ethics (whereas I read it as a dogmatic rehash of stale concepts and moldy arguments, riddled with logical fallacies, and polished up in the most dogmatic and inept way to simultaneously protest cruelty and defend speciesism). And as Pacelle has long sought to model the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) after the DC-powerhouse National Rifle Association (NRA), perhaps Scully had some connections among the power elite Pacelle could wine and dine. Certainly he saw in Scully the Yellow Brick Road to Power and Money.

To whatever degree he cares about animals, Scully's real constituency are rich, white, Republicans and -- having written speeches for Bush in he aftermath of 9/11 -- he had already become a shining star in the firmament of right-wing ideologues and corporate fat cats, each of whom need the best PR and BS teams they could assemble. And thanks to the fawning adulation of the likes of Pacelle and Karen Dawn, Scully overnight became the new darling of the animal movement, When not making the rounds of Congress or ariel warfare conventions, Scully continued to write speeches for Bush and anyone on the Right with the right fee. And, as it turned out, as so many of us were bracing ourselves for the nauseating Republican National Convention in early September 08, not wanting to hear another disingenuous word from "straight-talking" McCain but curious to hear about unknown Alaskan female governor who he shrewdly she to win Hillary's armies of disaffected, we learned that -- at this crisis moment and critical juncture for the Far Right -- that Matthew Scully stepped in to write the kind of speech the McCain theme thought necessary to disguise their malignant

The Duplicity and Complicity of Matthew Scully (continued)

and predatory policies as in terms of populism and family values. Right-wing soldier that he is, Scully stayed up the entire night before the speech and gave the magic words to which she had to give life in order to sell this sordid spectacle and sham to the US public and bring us another 4 more years of Bush, but much, much worse.

The moment was tense. The stakes were high. An unknown -- a woman! -- was walking onto the stage to accept her party's nomination for Vice President. But could she prove herself at the podium? Thanks to Scully's adroit words and Palin's androgynous mix of feminine soft talk and macho militarism, the chronically anxious Right erupted into a roar of elation as they felt they had, with the addition of Palin, finally find the ticket they wanted -- one entirely devoted to militarism, privatization, increasing their already obscene levels of wealth, and waging a full-blown culture war against abortion, sex education in the schools, the ban on prayers in pubic places, and so on.

Well, as the right-wing pundits droned on all next day, Palin/Scully "blew it out of the water." Even Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Joseph Biden said she was going to be "a tough debater" and had "a very skillfully written ...speech." And one awestruck fan gushed, "Palin sounded at times like she was speaking a foreign language as she gave voice to the beautifully crafted words that had been prepared for her on Wednesday night."

Congratulations, Scully, you did it! You galvanized and unified the most reactionary forces of the country that want to finish the job -- on the Constitution, liberties, privacy, human rights at home and abroad, the United Nations, international justice, restrictions on trade, unions, animal protections and the environment -- that Bush brought to such a high level in eight years. There is nothing innocent about what Scully does: he is a hack, a propagandist, a demagogue, a mouthpiece for nihilistic ideologies *that are anything but "pro-life."* To the degree that Bush, Cheney, McCain, and Palin are truly menacing forces -- who threaten not only neighboring nation states but *the entire planet itself,* Scully is their Paul Joseph Goebbels: a total ideologue, a skilled orator (on paper), and a devotee to the party line.

Whereas Obama is known to have fairly progressive views on animals, Palin is an aggressive supporter of hunting and herself an avid hunter. She goes so far as to champion aerial hunting of wolves and threatened to sue the EPA if they listed the polar bear as an endangered species.[ii] Beyond her regressive views on animals, she has helped mobilize the base of the far Right in a way McCain could not do himself because she is such an extreme conservative. According to MoveOn.Org:

**Palin recently said that the war in Iraq is "God's task." She's even admitted she hasn't thought about the war much—just last year she was quoted saying, "I've been so focused on state government, I haven't really focused much on the war in Iraq."

**Palin has actively sought the support of the fringe Alaska Independence Party. Six months ago, Palin told members of the group—who advocate for a vote on secession from the union—to "keep up the good work" and "wished the party luck on what she called its 'inspiring convention.'"

**Palin wants to teach creationism in public schools. She hasn't made clear whether she thinks evolution is a fact.

**Palin doesn't believe that humans contribute to global warming. Speaking about climate change, she said, "I'm not one though who would attribute it to being manmade."

**Palin has close ties to Big Oil. Her inauguration was even sponsored by BP.

**Palin is extremely anti-choice. She doesn't even support abortion in the case of rape or incest.

**Palin opposes comprehensive sex-ed in public schools. She's said she will only support abstinence-only approaches.

**As mayor, Palin tried to ban books from the library. Palin asked the library how she might go about banning books because some had inappropriate language in them—shocking the librarian, Mary Ellen Baker. According to Time, "news reports from the time show that Palin had threatened to fire Baker for not giving "full support" to the mayor." [iii]

Unfortunately, thanks to Scully, Palin's "homespun" speech (professionally crafted by a DC-insider), was a smash at the RNC, and she "hit it out of the ballpark" as nearly every conservative pundit said the following day. And so we have Scully -- who wrote a book critical of hunting – to thank not only for supporting a psychopath whose lust for killing animals perhaps rivals that of Ted Nugent, but for *reinvigorating a fascist movement* that has excellent chances at winning the next election, and taking the US even deeper into the innermost circles of hell, as somehow I suspect that McCain-Palin will be even worse for the US, the world, animals, and the planet than Bush-Cheney.

And yet, still we hear hardly a word from the animal community about what a thug and criminal Scully is, what a traitor he is to the animals, to fellow humans, and to the entire planet. The most pathetic comment so far I have heard is from Karen Dawn, a well-known animal activist and social butterfly who runs the newsletter, *Dawnwatch,* which comments on media representations of animal issues. Given her social and economic status – the fact that she lives in the affluent area along the California coastline, that she is a regular in the LA party and cocktail scene, that she loves to see and be seen with celebrities – it is not surprising she takes an apolitical view of animal issues, and in fact agrees with Pacelle's warped concept that this movement ought to strive to be a powerful single-issue, DC-based powerhouse like the NRA,

Here is Dawn's self-serving, cowardly, and deplorable commentary the day after Palin's speech:

"The news this week is the Republican Convention, and the animal news is the choice of Sarah Palin as McCain's running mate. Before I write any further on that issue, I need to stress that DawnWatch is entirely non partisan. If you've read [her new MTV-style book] *Thanking the Monkey* you know of my commitment to non partisan animal activism. It would be unfair to the animals for their advocates to alienate half of the human population. And in Thanking the Monkey, I explain that the somewhat common assumption [which I personally have argued for in detail] that animal advocacy is a left wing issue is false. Democrat voting records are better on animal issues overall, but the exceptions are shining. Republicans John Ensign of Nevada, and Christopher Shays of Connecticut are just two of those current outstanding exceptions. And former Senator Robert Smith of New Hampshire, an ultra right wing conservative, is the only person to date to speak passionately against vivisection on the Senate Floor.

Perhaps most notably, one of the finest books ever written [!] on animal protection is "Dominion: The Power of Man, The Suffering of Animals, and The Call to Mercy." It is by Matthew Scully, who worked as a senior speechwriter for George W Bush, penning the book on his off hours. Scully sees his compassion, or mercy, for animals, and his vegan lifestyle, as perfectly in line with his Catholic conservative values ...

In an extraordinary twist of fate, Scully was selected to write Sarah Palin's speech, which aired last night. Let us hope that in the time Scully and Palin spent together working on the speech, he began to influence her thinking. I hope every Republican on this list will urge her to read his book!"[iv]

"Let us hope that in the time Scully and Palin spent together working on the speech, he began to influence her thinking." How naïve and deep in denial can this woman be?! Does Dawn think that Scully and Sarah had a reasonable and open chat about the evils of hunting?! That he gently

The Duplicity and Complicity of Matthew Scully (continued)

reminded her that animals are not meat machines to shoot down in cold blood, just as he appreciatively received his lucrative paycheck for helping some of the most dangerous forces in our history in their bid to win an election and for selling out the planet? I suspect Scully talked far more with Palin about his fee than her bloody proclivities to kill animals.

Dawn is indeed critical of Palin's zeal for hunting and her abysmal environmental record, but she would rather be an enabler to this carnage than offend her powerful, rich, and influential friends. I do not exaggerate when I draw a line from McCain/Palin to Scully, Pacelle (an animal killer in his own right), and opportunists like Dawn.

In contrast to Dawn's vapid view that we can bring all people and parties into the animal cause, another animal advocate (infinitely more authentic and profound than Dawn), Norm Phelps, penned (in a personal email to me) some extremely critical remarks on Scully and the far Right:

"I think the fact that Matthew Scully wrote her convention speech (which was a masterpiece of viciousness) should give us all pause about the notion that conservatives will ever be serious animal advocates. I used to think that AR [animal rights] was a non-political issue and that we should keep it that way in the interests of converting as many people as possible and having the greatest impact on society. I no longer think that. I now believe that the mindset that leads conservatives to pursue policies that are hostile to the well-being of most of humanity (everyone except themselves and those to whom they are close) almost invariably leads them to policies that are hostile to the well-being of most animals (everyone except those to whom they are personally close, such as their companion animals).

"There is nothing that I find more perplexing and discouraging than the blatant speciesism that is rampant in most progressive circles. But in spite of this, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the liberal to progressive end of the political spectrum is where we have to concentrate our efforts and where we will ultimately find our victory. Conservatives can, in many cases, be persuaded to welfarism (properly so called, not as redefined by the so-called "abolitionists"), but not to AR. Scully's vehement denunciations of AR in Dominion are, I think, an important indicator of this, as is the fact that this man who wrote so eloquently of the suffering of animals could put his gifts in the service of a woman who practices and celebrates all manner of barbaric cruelty to animals. Scully obviously considers the lives and suffering of animals less important than politics as usual."

Phelps is right to argue that the Left is just as abysmal in its views on animals, and yet draws this distinction:

"The speciesism of liberals/progressives contradicts their fundamental values, which creates an opportunity for animal advocates. The speciesism of conservatives reinforces their fundamental values, which creates a solid wall. But I still think it is dangerous for the AR movement, as a movement, to align with other social justice movements until we have succeeded in raising their consciousness about animals to the point that the alliance can be formed on a basis of at least approximate equality. And I think a lot of groundwork needs to be done before we reach that point. I guess where I'm headed is that we need to be taking that groundwork seriously and getting busy at it—which, of course, is what you've been doing for some time now."[v]

While I agree with Phelps that Leftists are Paleolithic in their views on animals and we should not be too ready to tie ourselves to a human rights/ social justice platform as it is, and that we do need indeed to educate the Left, I have also disagreed with him (in quite friendly terms) that animal liberation is winnable without human and Earth liberation and a progressive alliance politics that fights against the main threat to the planet today, which is the capitalist grow-or-die economy.[vi]

But while we examine the problems with both the Right and the Left, let us not lose focus on the idiocy, cowardice, and opportunism in our own movement, for there are far too many "animal advocates" who are in fact advocates for something far less noble: money, power, glory, fame, and self—advancement. If not obvious with the writing of *Dominion* six years ago, Scully in particular is a sham, fraud, charlatan, prevaricator, hypocrite, and (neo-)con man, an enemy not only to animals, but also a de facto opponent of women, science, secularism, freedom of speech, and the environment.

Like the politicians he serves, Scully talks out of both sides of his mouth at once and serves each and every contradictory cause that advances his own good. No principled or consistent person writes a book against hunting, and then writes a speech for a vicious defender of hunting and avid killer herself. *Can any aninmal advocate among us ever imaien doing this?!* This is the moral and logical contradiction that would haunt a Kantian, someone with a conscience, anyone with principles or moral consistency, but it never troubles a utilitarian-opportunist.

And nor is his work done. The Far Right loved his Palin speech so much, they will surely contract him again. Without hyperbole, I say that Scully is less a "progressive vegan and animal welfarist" than he is a reactionary and a dangerous man. He has been the words, phrases, metaphors, rhetoric, narratives, jokes, and overall a key voice and mouthpiece of the Extreme Right who want to take this country back to pre-Enlightenment, pre-secular medieval serfdom where rights mean only property rights, liberty falls to security and hierarchy, and democracy is a forgotten dream.

To end by reiterating a crucial point: Mathew (Straight-Laced, Compassionate Conservative, Corporate and Family Values Man,) Scully is not just a hypocrite or opportunist, he is a *menace* to all life, beings, species, and nature. *This is not an ad hominem attack, it is simply a fact.* Look who he works for, and examine what they do. And because of the gigantic powers he brings to life, puffs up, drives forward, and legitimates with the rhetoric of his folksy, small-town, populism, he represents, in fact, gigantic global corporations that destroy families and communities. And because Scully casts the spell, and brings out the smoke and mirrors to cover up lies and to package a hideous program as "progress"; and because he gets the job done, time and time again, Scully is a danger and threat -- and I do not exaggerate -- to this *entire planet*.

Scully's really project is not "dominion," but domination, corporate hegemony of the planet and the advance of the US Empire. To the extent his discursive artistry helps to disarm Congress and to lull Americans back into their complacent and jingoistic sleep, Scully shares responsibility with Bush, Cheney, Ashcroft, Rumsfeld, Gonzalez, Rice, Halliburton, ExxonMobil, Monsanto, and ConAgra for turning this beautiful planet into a living hell for most of its inhabitants,and for leaving behind a wasteland and battlefield that will prove even more difficult if not impossible for future generations to survive, as ever more species vanish forever.

FLAM of Mexico

By Olive

The industries and individuals responsible for the exploitation of animals in México City and surrounding areas ought to watch their backs and their business. The Frente de Liberación ole México (FLAM) shows no signs of slowing its deliverance streak.

Over the last two months, and certainly throughout this past year, FLAM has placed much trust in the handbook on disruption of animal cruelty as they hit the shops, restaurants, labs and homes of those directly connected to the cruelty of animals.

"Animal Liberation is not just two words in zines, web sites, T-shirts, tattoos or patches. Animal liberation is not just words spoken at animal rights meetings, shouted at peaceful demonstrations or rumors spoken about different people. Animal liberation is deeds, fury turned into action, a radical response against the anthropocentric system of domination,

FLAM of Mexico (continued)

the love for freedom. It's what few dare to carry out. It is a challenge to authority, to society, to the system and to its institutions. It is a fire that spreads and that is unstoppable. It is insurrection."

The main tactic for this group of animal rights activists in recent months has been spilling blood red paint at various KFCs and Burger Kings, pet stores and fur shops, meat and dairy businesses, university labs, and homes of bird breeders. Dozens of attacks have been committed in this manner. Paint is not used sparingly at these stops, where the walls, floors, windows and shelves are often left covered by the color of our tortured friends. FLAM has used some incendiary devices this year, but has also chosen tactics that leave their messages in writing for the business owners—and, more importantly, the public— to see plain as day. "Meat is death" and "eggs are torture" are a couple slogans left this September during a night attack on a number of businesses. "It is very important to show the facts of these businesses to the public, to ask about what is hidden in packaged products and their 'beautiful and artistic' plates filled with death and suffering," stated FLAM. In early September a visit to the "great white gates" surrounding pharmaceutical company Novartis, a customer of Huntington Life Sciences (HLS), became stained with red paint and a clear message: "Novartis cut ties with HLS."

The autonomous chapters of FLAM have shown much solidarity with their non-human friends by throwing stones at the windows and illuminated signs of their profiteers, which occurred at least five times during the month of September. An estimated 35 doors of meat markets have been glued shut, accompanied by slogans and the symbols of FLAM on their targets' property—erasing any doubt as to who or what has come to disrupt business as usual. In a communiqué from early September, the group wrote, "We know that these are small things, but for us they are important and big." This is also an approach the group has taken when it comes to their targets, it does not matter if a business is large or small; "walls that hid torture and subjugation were damaged."

On August 17, while visiting the Universidad Nacional Autómoma de México (city university) in México City—where, reportedly 15,000 rats and 18,000 mice are housed and sold to other industries for experimentation—FLAM launched paint bombs at the building and windows. The group reported that this action was the first time a FLAM activist was arrested. A minor was released without charges or fines, and bravely sat through interrogations asking for the names of fellow activists. The group involved in this action wrote that they were able to learn from the experience and see how their mistakes, as well as their successes, can help them in future actions, and acknowledge the possibility of more investigations into their work might be being conducted.

Late August saw the liberation of twenty-three rabbits from a pet store in Mexico City when, in broad daylight, the defenseless creatures were rescued in front of the shop owners and nearby merchants. On September 2, the owner of a restaurant, who chooses to raise "cockfighting" roosters, fell prey to an action that left him exposed to his community. Though the "sport" is a tradition of Mexico, this disgusting and dishonorable human fascination needs to be dismantled. The activists left the message, "stop killing animals," on his property for neighbors to discover and proceeded to his place of business to spill paint. In mid-September the Comando Verde Negro FLAM daringly entered the home of a bird breeder and made sizable holes for the captive birds to fly from their cages, never to return again to a life behind bars.
FLAM enjoys hitting many targets on a given night, as well as making hits night after night. The blood-pumping excitement of their liberating actions is also freeing them from the crushing pressures of society to adhere to a life that accepts cruelty to animals as a legitimate business. As one communiqué states, "A fire to modernity, stones to consumerism, we break the systematic yoke."

California Chronicle Scientists Criticize UC Davis Primate Experiments as "Unethical"

Watchdog group demands UC Regents meeting, inspection tour.

Davis, CA - A panel of scientists – including two former University of California veterinarians and research insiders – issued statements this week criticizing experimental procedures commonly used in research laboratories at UCLA, UC Davis and UCSF, according to a national research watchdog organization.

Veterinary and scientific experts labeled University of California procedures as "unethical,"

"distressful" and causing "pain and suffering." The procedures routinely deprive rhesus monkeys of water, confine them to restraint chairs and literally bolt devices to their skulls.

The critiques (available upon request) were released by Ohio-based SAEN, which serves as a non-profit watchdog over animal experiments. SAEN has demanded meetings with UC Board Of Regents to discuss the elimination of these procedures, and requested laboratory inspection tours and the initiation of a sanctuary retirement program for primates from UC laboratories.

"Experiments that utilize these procedures are unethical. Severe restraint or confinement…involving restraint chairs, is one of the most stressful things that can be done to a primate. (The) situation is exacerbated when the motion of a primate is further limited by the use of surgically implanted restraining bars," said Dr. Bruce Max Feldmann, UC Berkeley Lab Veterinarian for 10 years.

And, Dr. Nedim C. Buyukmihci, Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, called the restraint procedures "highly stressful," adding, "To make matters even worse for them, restraining devices may be surgically implanted so that the animal's head will not move at all."

"Withholding water for up to 22 hours per day for five days a week in order that the monkeys are motivated to work for fluid reward is unconscionable," said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, Director of the Tufts University Animal Behavior Clinic.

"Scientific experts have roundly criticized these horrific procedures," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "It´s time for the Board of Regents to act."

The Beginning of the End for Chimpanzee Experiments?

By Andrew D. Knight

The advanced sensory, psychological and social abilities of chimpanzees confer upon them a profound ability to suffer when born into unnatural captive environments, or captured from the wild - as many older research chimpanzees once were - and when subsequently subjected to confinement, social disruption, and involuntary participation in potentially harmful biomedical research. Justifications for such research depend primarily on the important contributions advocates claim it has made toward medical advancements.

However, a recent large-scale systematic review indicates that invasive chimpanzee experiments rarely provide benefits in excess of their profound animal welfare, bioethical and financial costs. The approval of large numbers of these experiments - particularly within the US - therefore indicates a failure of the ethics committee system.

The Beginning of the end.. (continued)

By 2008, legislative or policy bans or restrictions on invasive great ape experimentation existed in seven European countries, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. In continuing to conduct such experiments on chimpanzees and other great apes, the US was almost completely isolated internationally.

In 2007, however, the US National Institutes of Health National Center for Research Resources implemented a permanent funding moratorium on chimpanzee breeding, which is expected to result in a major decline in laboratory chimpanzee numbers over the next 30 years, as most are retired or die. Additionally, in 2008, The Great Ape Protection Act was introduced to Congress.

The bill proposed to end invasive research and testing on an estimated 1,200 chimpanzees confined within US laboratories, and, for approximately 600 federally-owned, to ensure their permanent retirement to sanctuaries. These events have created an unprecedented opportunity for US legislators, researchers, and others, to consider a global ban on invasive chimpanzee research.

Such a ban would not only uphold the best interests of chimpanzees, and other research fields presently deprived of funding, but would also increase the compliance of US animal researchers with internationally-accepted animal welfare and bioethical standards. It could even result in the first global moratorium on invasive research, for any non-human species, unless conducted in the best interests of the individual or species.

32 Monkeys Die in Accident at Nevada Lab

By Scott Sonner

Thirty-two research monkeys at a Nevada laboratory died because human errors made the room too hot, officials for the drug company that runs the lab said Thursday. Animal rights activists complain the company took too long to report the deaths.

Charles River Laboratories Inc. issued a statement saying the monkeys died in Sparks on May 28. The company, based in Wilmington, Mass., attributed the deaths to incorrect climate-control operation.

The company said that it reported the problem immediately to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but that it didn't notify the public out of concern for the safety of its 515 employees who work at its labs in Sparks and neighboring Reno.

"Due to the increased level of extremist activity targeting individuals involved in biomedical research in recent months, our first concern is for our employees and the animals we care for at Charles River," the company said.

Company officials also recently met with the USDA to review preventive measures put in place as a result of the accident, the company said. It said that no other primates were affected, and that the public was never in danger.

Kathy Guillermo of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals questioned the company's claim that it immediately reported the situation to federal authorities because "USDA did open an inquiry when we filed a complaint" in July.

"Their statement about fears for their own safety is absurd," said Guillermo, director of PETA's laboratory investigations department in Norfolk, Va. "They have an abysmal record of animal care. As usual, they are more interested in their reputation than in the animals' safety."

She continued: "That monkeys were literally cooked to death by a heating system failure, as a whistleblower alleges, shows that the facility did not even have a simple alarm system in place to alert staff to the malfunction."

Justin Goodman, PETA's associate supervisor for research, notified the USDA of the group's concerns on July 7 after PETA received an anonymous letter. Robert Gibbens, a USDA official, said in a letter to Goodman the same day that the USDA intended to investigate.

A spokesperson for Gibbens' office referred calls to officials at the USDA's Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service in Maryland. Officials there did not return a call.

PETA's Guillermo said the USDA cited Charles River for 22 violations of the Animal Welfare Act in 2005 alone. Another animal rights group, Stop Animal Exploitation Now, this year publicized 20 violations Charles River reported to federal officials in 2006 and early 2007.

Stop Animal Exploitation Now cited information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act that showed the fingers of two monkeys at the Sparks lab were amputated after being caught in cage wiring. A third monkey's tail was cut and treated.

Charles River spokeswoman Amy Cianciaruso said at the time that the company immediately changed procedures to minimize the chance of a recurrence of injuries and that staff were trained on the new procedures.

On Thursday, Cianciaruso and Greg Beattie, executive director for site operations in Sparks, said they could not comment beyond the company's statement.

Biomedical researchers are on edge lately. Firebombs have targeted researchers at University of California campuses in Santa Cruz and Los Angeles.

More recently, masked protesters targeting UC Berkeley have scrawled graffiti and broken windows at scientists' homes. And in February, animal rights activists showed up wearing masks at the house of a UC Santa Cruz cancer researcher and threw a punch at the scientist's husband.

Who are People Barred From Britain?

By BBC News

A total of 230 people have been prevented from entering the UK since 2005, as their presence was deemed not to be "conducive to the public good".

Those excluded include religious extremists, neo-Nazis and animal rights activists.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has announced a list of the names of those excluded is now to be published and shared with other countries.

But no way of knowing the names of these people has previously existed - unless they have drawn attention to their situation themselves.

About 80 of those barred have been so-called "preachers of hate".

Among those refused entry is Lebanon-based cleric Omar Bakri Mohammed, the former head of the now-disbanded group al-Muhajiroun, which gained notoriety for praising the 9/11 hijackers.

In 2005 the then Home Secretary Charles Clarke used existing powers to exclude Mr Mohammed as his presence was "not conducive to the public good".

Other preachers to have raised the ire of the authorities include Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, from the US, and Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who

Who are People Barred from Britain? (continued)

who lives in Qatar.

In February 2008 Muslim cleric Mr al-Qaradawi was refused a visa, because the Home Office said the UK would not tolerate the presence of those who sought to justify acts of terrorist violence.

The Egyptian-born cleric was described at the time as "dangerous and divisive" by Conservative leader David Cameron.

The Guardian reports that a month later a member of Israel's Likud party was refused entry by current Home Secretary Jacqui Smith in relation to "unacceptable behaviour" on a visit to the UK in 2005.

It was feared the presence of Moshe Feiglin might have lead to inter-community violence because of his strident views.

A long-term ban against Louis Farrakhan had been in place for a number of years when he failed in 2002 to have it overturned by going through the courts.

Then Home Secretary David Blunkett said that a visit from the Nation of Islam leader, who had apparently described whites as devils, Jews as bloodsuckers and Hitler as a great man, would threaten public order.

But the exclusions have not just been directed at religious extremists - in 2004 Mr Blunkett wrote to US animal rights activist Dr. Jerry Vlasak, who had reportedly incited violence against vivisectionists, to say he would not be allowed into the UK.

Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg are also among those to have been denied entry to the UK from the US. The lifestyle guru and the rapper had been convicted of crimes, which formed the basis of their exclusions.

Actions Since the Last Newsletter

August 18, 2008
This is a local soldier out of Utah just letting you guys know of a raid that just happened last night at the South Jordan, Utah McMullen Mink Farm, 300 plus mink were released with all their breeding records destroyed. Good news, haven't seen this done in a while so it had to be done.

August 23, 2008
On Saturday Aug 23, activists entered a mink farm in Aldergrove BC CANADA and released approx 4000 mink. The farm is next to Aldergrove Lake Park which provides over 200 acres of water habitat for them to survive. Operation Biteback is in full force, let these arrows be our tears.....

September 10, 2008
Late on September 10 we entered the compound of Worldwide Primates (16450 SW 180th Street, Miami, Florida) and cut large holes in 4 outdoor cages. Each cage held 5 or 6 monkeys.

There is no doubt that monkeys can survive in Florida. There are hundreds of wild monkeys in colonies across the state. Worldwide Primates is surrounded by fruit farms.

Worldwide Primates is the business of convicted baby orangutan smuggler Matthew Block. He spent one year in prison and then went back to work importing and selling primates to vivisection labs.

Mr. Block, we haven't forgotten you. Your work is still criminal in our eyes.
- Animal Liberation Front

September 21, 2008
Three members of the Animal Liberation Front entered a massive mink prison in Kaysville, Utah last night. On releasing about 10,000 mink we found and destroyed all breeding records. We also vandalized the trucks and various forms of equipment, including destroying the electrical fence and cutting about a hundred holes in the fence's perimeter.

We are inspired by recent activities in Utah involving mink liberations, so this is a call-out to all activists. We need to spark a new level against the fur industry. We can't let this get out of hand. Its been too long since we have fought. Now is the time. The pelting season is soon.

Don't let the animals be destroyed so their skin can be worn by some rich bitch. There is nothing glamorous about wearing an animal's carcass.

We urge you to get involved, now more than ever. Act up, fight back! Defend the defenseless until there are no prisons left.
-ALF

October 6, 2008
Thought we'd shout out a big screw you to bill 2296 so we paint stripped three cars in the driveway of UCLA vivisector Baldwin Way at XXX Princeton Street in Santa Monica.

A kid in our dorm knows all about you fucker, injecting meth into vervet monkeys. Our spontaneity prevented us from obtaining the neccessary implements to blow up your car, but we figured that your roommates Sammuel and Randi deserved some retribution for living with a sadistic fuck that gets off on tormenting monkeys. We suggest you hold your breath the next time you start your car.

Keep up the revolution, friends in Mexico, Berkeley, Santa Cruz and around the world.
---students and workers for the liberation of UCLA primates

October 17, 2008
In the early morning hours of October 17th, a lone activist infiltrated the fur farm at 92659 Simonsen Road in Astoria Oregon. About 1,500 mink were released from their cages with at least 200 of these being breeding stock. The fact that there is no fence around this farm should help ease their escape.

This action is being claimed for the vegan straight edge community. not as a self-congratulatory ego boost, but in the vein hope that it might spur others into action. It has become apparent that the combined tactics of record collecting, sing-alongs, and militant posturing have failed to stop those who abuse innocent life. once we accept this then we can stop squandering our potential and choose a more effective plan of action.

I would like to close by offering apiece of advice to the owners of this farm, to the owners of the other farms in the Astoria, OR area (it was simply by luck of the draw that your farms weren't chosen), and to ALL fur farmers: find a new profession. fur farmers are a dying breed. get out before you are forced out.
- -VSE

November 8, 2008
Prepared and determined activists of the Frente de Liberación Animal – Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) took to the streets November 5 to remember the struggle and fight of our compañero Barry Horne.
We had been thinking about visiting another target when suddenly a truck that was transporting chickens for slaughter was ahead of us. Inside a building the killers were crowding animals into small boxes to later bring them to a certain death; in a spontaneous action, in anger, not caring whether we were discovered, we quickly snatched from the truck 8 hens and carried them to freedom.

With this liberation and other acts of sabotage throughout this year of direct action in Mexico, we showed the exploiters that the struggle of our fellow fighter Barry has not ceased and that on the contrary it is increasing

Barry Horne, an inspiration for the ALF and other groups in Mexico and throughout the world. --FLA-CVN

December 4, 2008
Again the commercial area of the town of Coacalco in Mexico State was an easy target for attacks by the MDA.

David Sanchez, the mayor, who was born evil, believes in organizing bullfights of torture and humiliation to bulls, fairs where roosters are exhibited and won as if they were trophies, giving space to circuses with animal prisoners, leather/fur fairs, protecting multinational killers, banks, commercial marketplaces and other institutions complicit in the destruction of the planet; they did not deserve to be attacked by radical activists, because you were the one who was wrong, you and your bastard henchmen.

Well, this morning, we infiltrated the 'expo fair of leather and footwear, León Guanajuato,' and we placed an incendiary device in one of the tents; after 20 minutes the fire burned most of this deviant trade. Shops lined with the skin of horses, cows, snakes. etc., clothes of wool snatched from lambs, jackets made of the skin of murdered pigs and other products were consumed by our anti-speciesist hate.

Many people uninformed or unfamiliar with the movement of sabotage for animal liberation will ask, why did they do it? Did they not care about the traders who lost their merchandise? Don't they respect private property, authority, morals, lives?

And we of the MDA respond, NO, we do not care about the thousands of pesos in losses that we have caused, we do not care about traders who profit at the expense of the pain, torture and suffering of nonhuman animals, just as they do not care that they deprive one who is sentient like them their freedom and torture them to death. We do not care about the civilized morals of respect and tolerance toward it that destroys all of us little by little. We are not going to respect any authority dressed in blue (PAN), tricolor (PRI), yellow (PRD), red (communist parties), much less black (traditional anarchist authorities), nor any 'revolutionary' leader. We're not in favor of their way of life, we are not biocentrists, we are anti-anthropocentrists and we are in favor of Animal, Human and Earth liberation; we will not stop in our attacks even if an exploiter is left wounded or dead; we will delight in what we have done. We are not going to respect the private property of torturers, because we know that to strike the leather/fur industry in this country as we have done will make the filthy owners think twice before establishing their businesses covered with the blood of innocents; just as it is also a clear message to the other industries of planetary destruction: you are in sight and we will not stop until you collapse.

We note that this action was done a few steps from the McDonalds that we sabotaged in October with graffiti and a fake bomb, when the municipal police, instead of fulfilling their duty as 'Mr. Justice,' appeared to be incompetent and powerless clowns, just as they are in reality.

Our words are no joke, we stated in the October communique that the next bomb would be really destructive, we do not lie; we laugh at the criticisms of mediocre people who full of feelings of inferiority said that the fake bombs were just false alarms and that we would not return again; they eat their words.

We likewise scoff at the absurd and groundless criticism of the communists, conservationists, traditional anarchists and others, whose old and authoritarian characters were made to see what they still won't account for; to move from words to actions shows that we are in a struggle to the death with the state and its speciesist lackeys; to demonstrate our vengeance with stones and fire, to strike and to be an individual in an informal organization is effective.

These actions will not stop, on the contrary they will grow; in Mexico the exploiters will no longer have the easy life and will no longer have peace, all the torturers will pay the price.

No more classism in this fight; any person, regardless of social class, who destroys the earth and its inhabitants is an enemy!

For Animal, Human and Earth liberation, radical insurrection!

Why shed tears, if we can instigate them?

Milicias por los Derechos de lxs Animales (MDA) [Militias for the Rights of Animals], México Clandestino [Clandestine Mexico]

December 15, 2008
UC Berkeley vivisector Ralph Freeman and all of the current lab members in Freeman's Visual Neuroscience Lab (http://neurovision.berkeley.edu) were sent a trojan horse virus embedded into email. This virus is designed to completely wreck their computers while leeching all vital personal information they've ever entered into their systems.

It is time to buy new computers, and after that, save yourself the hassle that will follow and get the fuck out of this cat killing lab. The lab where kittens as young as six weeks live in daily fear and trauma from the violence that you are responsible for. The cats in stereotaxic devices with holes drilled into their skulls are what drives us and we will do anything to end your torture.

We've read the past communiques where other anonymous activists have visited Freeman's home and broken windows, with this action we want to send the message loud and clear that those who torture non-humans to death are not safe at home nor at work. We will go on the offensive against every form of oppression that surrounds; whether it be racism, sexism, homophobia, or speciesism.
--Hackers for Total Liberation

Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

Jonathan Paul #07167-085
FCI Phoenix
Federal Correctional Institution
37910 N 45th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
FTC OKLAHOMA CITY
P.O. BOX 898801
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73189

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers #13797671
CRCI 9111
NE Sunderland Ave
Portland, OR 97211-1708

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendent, Craig 'Critter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Re-sentenced to 10 years!

Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher #36360-086
FCI Dublin
5701 8th Street- Camp Parks- Unit F
Dublin, CA 94568

Nathan "Exile" Block #36359-086
FCI Lompoc
3600 Guard Road
Lompoc, CA 93436

Unrepentant eco-warriors convicted for the arsons of a SUV dealership and a genetic engineering tree farm in Oregon under the banner of ELF. Betrayed by all but 2 of their co-defendants, both are currently serving 7 years 8 months and are scheduled for release in 2012.

Justin Uribe #T-29257
C-5/236 up
Pleasant Valley State Prison
PO Box 8503
Coalinga, CA 93210

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY # 93501-011: 48 months
FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5300
ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- **Released!**

LAUREN GAZZOLA # 93497-011: 52 months
FCI DANBURY
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
ROUTE #37
DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER # 29429-086: 36 months
FCI SHERIDAN
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 5000
SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS # 93502-011: 72 months
FCI SANDSTONE
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - **Released! to a halfway house.**

Kevin Olliff- RELEASED!!

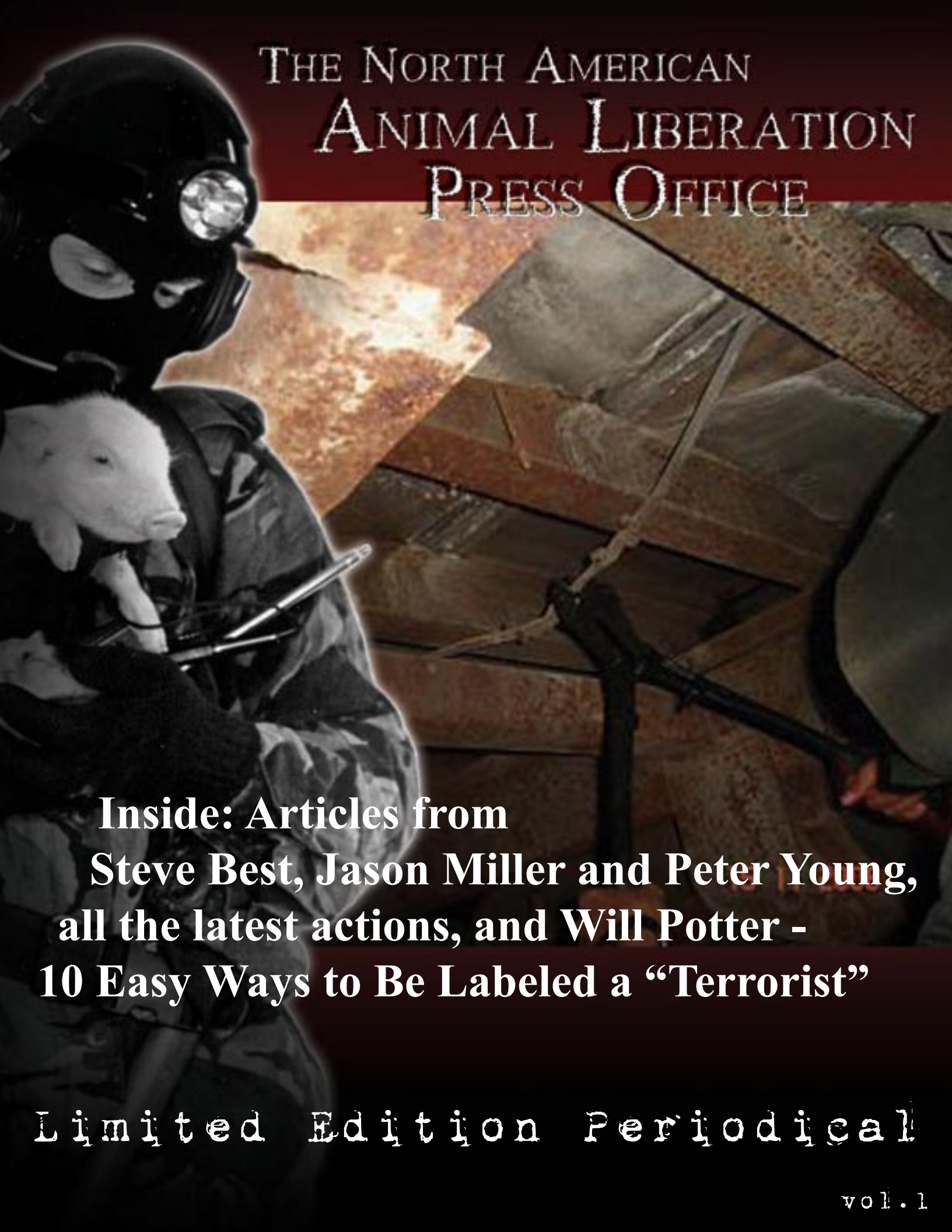
Jailed February 2008 on theft-related charges. Committed animal rights activists who has organized against HLS. Released December 4th.

Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
Sacramento County Main Jail
651 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to



The North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Inside: Articles from
Steve Best, Jason Miller and Peter Young,
all the latest actions, and Will Potter -
10 Easy Ways to Be Labeled a "Terrorist"

Limited Edition Periodical

vol.1

North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Press Office Directive:

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded in 2004 to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit and research. Within these conditions, those in the underground, working for animal liberation, often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent", with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously and otherwise inconsequentially inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals. In addition to reporting the courageous and necessary actions of the underground, NAALPO's second objective is to provide the reader with thought-provoking pieces that will serve as tools to the individual and to the future of the Animal Liberation Movement.

Contact:
6320 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1500
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 227-5022
press@animalliberationpressoffice.org

Disclaimer: The Animal Liberation Press Officers do not engage in illegal activities, nor do they know any individuals who do. Neither does this website or the Press Office indend to encourage illegal actions. Rather, the Press Office receives and posts communiqués from anonymous parties and provides comment to the media.

Since there isn't a way to contact individuals working underground (their identity is not known to anyone in the aboveground movement), the use of communiqués is one way the underground communicates with the public at large. Communiqués can be sent directly to anyone including the press, underground support groups, aboveground animal rights groups, etc.

Because the individuals who engage in underground actions cannot reveal their identities to anyone, a North American Animal Liberation Press Office has been created to try to answer some of the questions as to why these actions may have been carried out, and to place the actions in a historical and philosophical context. Since we do not engage in illegal activities ourselves, we do not know the details of these actions, but we can try to the best of our ability to give you a better understanding of why a particular action may have been carried out.

From the Press Office

The fourth year of operations at the North American Animal Liberation Press Office was marked in 2008, heralded with more than three times the amount of actions claimed by the underground than the year previous. The degree of expansion that the Press Office is undergoing meant a change in presentation was in order.

The Press Office will now be distributing actions of the underground in a limited-edition, seasonal periodical. Included in each issue will be the action communiques we have received since the last release, alongside thought-provoking writings that will undoubtedly serve as tools to the individual and to the continuation of the Animal Liberation movement.

The immediate victories of this year have not been without cost. Two activists, BJ Viehl and Alex Hall, were arrested in March of this year in relation to a string of 2008 Utah mink raids, while another, Jordan Halliday, was arrested for failure to comply with a Grand Jury. BJ and Alex were released on bail and are waiting trial, and one can learn more about their case at SupportBJandAlex.com.

Restraining orders were filed in 2008 by UCLA with hopes of chilling picketers, but the futility of this action was proven when UC vivisectors were instead met with resistance from the underground in the forms of arson and other sabotage. Similar actions were carried out against vivisectors in Santa Cruz, leading in part to this year's unjust arrests of four above-ground activists, known now as the AETA 4. They have since been released from jail and are waiting to prove their innocence in court later this month. One can familiarize themselves with their case and read a copy of the indictment against them at AETA4.org.

As in the past, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office will continue to expand, explain effective tactics of the underground movement and report direct actions taken on behalf of all exploited and murdered non-human animals across the continent. We appreciate the support afforded us in the liberation community, and look forward to serving the interests of oppressed non-humans until all are free.

10 Easy Ways to Be Labeled a "Terrorist" by the Government.

Written by Will Potter
- GreenIsTheNewRed.com

The FBI labels the environmental and animal rights movements the number one domestic terrorism threat. Those actiists have never flown planes into buildings, taken hostages or sent anthrax through the mail. So how did they make it to the top of the government's list? Here are 10 ways you can be labeled an eco-terrorist:

10.) Sabotage corporate property.

Underground groups like the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front have released animals from fur farms, vandalized SUV's and, at the most extreme, set fire to empty buildings. Those crimes have only harmed property, not people, but the government has pushed for terrorism enhancement penalties in those cases. It may come as a surprise that sabotage is the bottom of this list, but these cases are actually only a very small focus of the bigger Green Scare.

9.) Fall in love with an FBI agent.

That's what happened to Eric McDavid. He didn't harm anyone or break anything, but he was convicted of conspiring to sabotage federal facilities in the name of defending the environment and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The entire case against him hinged on the work of Anna, an FBI operative who provided the group with bomb-making recipes; financed their transportation, food and housing; strung along McDavid, who had the hopes of a romantic relationship; and poked and prodded the group into action.

8.) Attend vegan potlucks.

While Al-Qaeda continues to release video communiques threatening Americans, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces are using anti-terrorism resources to attempt to infiltrate vegan potlucks.

7.) Protect your privacy.

The FBI and local law enforcement have been exposed for spying on activists around the country, including peace activists in Maryland and the HoneyBaked Hams protesters in Georgia. Understandably, many activists don't want their faces in FBI files, so they often wear bandanas at protests. And guess what? The government says THAT is terrorism. Joint Terrorism Task Forces have arrested an animal rights activist in Virginia for wearing a mask, and four California activists are facing terrorism charges for the same.

6.) Beat the good ol' boys at their own game.

A Utah lawmaker is promising to introduce new eco-terrorism legislation. His target? Not the Earth Liberation Front, Animal Liberation Front, or some shadowy underground group. Hes openly, proudly targeting mainstream environmentalists. Specifically, he has his sights on Tim DeChristopher, the University of Utah student who disrupted an oil and gas auction by bidding on parcels of land. The state lawmaker says DeChristopher's auction bids are no different than burning down a mans cattle operation eco-terrorism. DeChristopher took millions of dollars away from us, and hes laughing at us. Its not right. Its not fair.

5.) Stop the symbolism.

With the RNC coming to town, local organizers in the Twin Cities set up a community infrastructure including housing, transportation, child care and protest logistics. They worked with a wide range of mainstream, lawful organizations. They were very public, vocal and outspoken from the beginning about their intentions: We don't just want a photo opportunity or a symbolic civil disobedience, were going to disrupt business as usual. The government's response? Eight organizers were arrested before the protests began for conspiring to riot in the furtherance of terrorism.

4.) Be vocal and unapologetic.

The government hasn't made headway on the vast majority of crimes by groups like the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front. So they're targeting above-ground activists who vocally, unsympathetically support the underground. In the SHAC 7 case, animal rights activists were convicted of animal enterprise terrorism for running a website that posted news of both legal and illegal actions against a notorious laboratory, and vocally supporting all of it. The government also uses grand juries like the recent one in Utah to harass and intimidate activists, and force them to testify about their political beliefs and political associations.

3.) Go after their money.

I'm not just talking about the kind of property destruction mentioned in #10. Sweeping new legislation called the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act wraps up a wide range activity as terrorism, including causing a loss of profits to an animal enterprise. Causing a loss of profits is not terrorism: it is effective activism.

2.) Get to their root of the problem.

The government isn't going to label people as terrorists for recycling or volunteering at an animal shelter. That's not because those things aren't important, its because they aren't radical in the true sense of the term: they don't get to the root of the problem. When activists go deeper — when they move beyond questioning the types of light bulbs we use to questioning the entire, unsustainable economic system — that's when they truly become terrorists.

1.) Be effective.

More than anything else, this is the sure-fire way to be labeled a terrorist. For instance, shortly after the historic victory of Proposition 2 in California, a corporate front group bought a full-page ad in the New York Times labeling the Humane Society of the United States as terrorists. Whether its activists burning SUV's or passing landmark legislation, the common thread between every activist being labeled a terrorist is that they are successful. In this War on Terrorism, the number one domestic terrorism threat includes any environmental activist who is passionate, uncompromising and, above all else, effective.

For more information and all the latest from Will Potter please vist

The increasing advance of the "deterrent" is uneclipsed in human history. Cell phones have become their roving microphones, cameras their outsourced eyes, and the silicon chip Big Brother's all-knowing brain. As a movement, survival demands that what they package as "obstacle", we must redefine as opportunity.

Many books cover counter-surveillance and security circumvention. Eclipsing the need for a methodological checklist is a paradigm-shift from that which frames advancing technology as the loss of old options to the introduction of new ones. The reframing of those things we deem obstructions is the leveraging of power necessary to carry us forward when they would have us cower in despair. Victory belongs to the versatile, success to the fluid.

When does security increase, and when does it merely change forms? The beat cop of a century ago, patrolling Main Street on foot, today does not leave his patrol car. Movement not within eyeshot of the road becomes invisible, and low level noise at any distance – inaudible. The proportionate numbers of law enforcement have not increased dramatically, just their ability to increase the selectivity and speed of processing data. There are not more human eyes, just the refining of what they see. When viewed through this lens, the blind spots are revealed.

Survival in the face of increased security and surveillance requires a new approach. Will we perceive a ruined landscape of lost options, or see the unintentional offering of hidden advantage. Acknowledging the subjectivity of imposed controls is not just necessary for morale, but for survival as a movement.

In a paradigm that holds increased technology as synonymous with increased security, this blind faith often brings with it a blind spot. For a shift in attention to, is often a shift in attention from.

The Art of Misdirection

The purchaser of high-tech security pays for the luxury of inattention. With this false sense of comfort, and blind faith in technology, she who circumvents an alarm finds herself in a much easier position to do a complete job once inside. When one pays for an alarm to tell them if all is not well, the untripped alarm translates to all being well. I have seen the fur farmer who invests 5-figures in a perimeter alarm system, developing an arrogant confidence in that technology such that he suddenly feels comfortable moving to a house off-site. A condition in which the astute reader of The Final Nail, knowledgeable in evading such alarms, enjoys a much easier time of emptying a farm than had the system never been installed. And so their perceived advantage becomes their actual demise.

The sinister byproduct of the social networking phenomenon is the revealing of one's entire social grid: "who knows who" is but one step from "who knows what". Investigations, typically hobbled by the laborious task of compiling lists of names, now have their lists compiled for them. Most preliminary investigation methods, from determining a suspect's list of friends, to a list of those subscribing to a certain ideology in a given geographical range, are now accomplished not just without warrant, but from a desk. An internet presence for most is today accepted as fact. As emphasis for intelligence gathering on targets by law enforcement shifts to the internet, the social networking non-participant becomes all the less traceable; with law enforcement all the more inept at employing alternatives, and all the more likely to omit non-digital strategies from their toolbox. The social networking abstainer thus becomes the unseen.

Increasing in rate are prosecutions based on placing suspects at crime scenes via cell phone signals. Cell phone are in constant transmission of their position to satellites. The perceived necessity-status of cell phones increases sureness in their use as a reliable tracking device. The person who

leaves their cell phone at home is all the less suspect, and the person who does not own one at all is all the less visible.

For those who would make legal transgressions in their sight, the early days of video surveillance brought with them the fearful caution of a new technology. Today, they are the idle threat, having reached such ubiquity in their numbers, and there is diminished fear of any one camera being monitored in real time. Through their proliferation, they have rightfully devolved to the limp threat of the "no trespassing" sign. Faith in their deterrent value makes those undeterred an even greater threat.

The often permanent record of internet search and browsing history is well-understood. Yet even public computers have proven to be a liability, with records from such – in conjunction with records from a university vivisection website – being used to bring an indictment in the recent AETA 4 case. What appears on the surface to be a disturbing trend instead can be reframed as an encouraging testimony to their emphasis on computers to solve crimes. This guarantees the wise liberator, who refuses the false promises of technology and the allure of their convenience, room to move in the invisible blind spot of trade journals, books, and analog directories.

If it is forensics they want in the courtroom, then they just may get what they are begging for. It should come to them as no surprise when there are those who take a page from less noble organized crime syndicates in response to forensic threats, and those recovered crime-scene forensics are the hairs and fingerprints of animal abusers on items sourced from their own trash and "mistakenly" left at the scene. A false conviction for insurance fraud is infinitely more just than an Animal Enterprise Terrorism charge for those truly responsible; all the better for the saboteurs, and with one less monster roaming the streets - the world.

Looking at the increased high profile use of informants and snitches in social justice movements, there are those who do not respond with more despair but with better tactics, reformatting their work to be carried out alone. When their greatest weapons are the enemies within us, lone-liberators achieve greater freedom and stealth while insuring against defection from within their ranks. Shedding blind faith in strength in numbers, we shift emphasis from the "cell" to the "self", render their most potent weapon useless, and stay free to fight another day.

With the technology we fear comes blind faith in its power – a truth to be exploited on both sides. The nighttime saboteur tracked via cell phone mails it to Tucson for the weekend to carry out a nighttime raid of a transgenic mice breeding facility in Hollister – serving not just the cause of suggesting innocence in a courtroom, but deterring suspicion entirely. Supreme faith in "supreme" technology introduces an increased sense of comfort, as in the laboratory that installs a state of the art security system and fires the security guard. The freedom fighter who has studied the system's flaws suddenly finds herself in a better position to enter undetected than with the presence of a guard, and their advantage becomes ours. With this angle, there is opportunity in security and surveillance, when it brings their attention one direction while you operate in another. Attention re-directed is attention denied.

Simplicity Revisited

As security becomes increasingly technologically complex, low-tech methods become all the more effective. With the increase of confidence in technology, large gaps open up on the spectrum's opposite end. And where the gap is not large, the wiggle-room remains.

When they go high tech, being effective can mean us going low. The infiltrator deeming an alarm system outside his ability to circumvent, instead hides in plain site, entering the building during business hours, under the guise of a UPS delivery. High tech methods of bypassing keypad-based security are forgone for a social engineering move that coerces an access code from a staff person over the phone under a "new employee" pretext. When techno-fetishism increases, so does the power of low-tech methods.

When they monitor our computers, it is because they expect us to use computers. When they track our movements

through cell phones, it is because they take for granted our use of cell phones. Their power is dependent on our cooperation. Without it, we are not just under their radar; we are outside their paradigm. The well-compartmentalized life, in which computers are never used for the important work, and cell phones are never present during its planning or execution, brings a level of invisibility in the present day, which the same behavior would not have brought just 5 years ago. As usage of technologies increase, their confidence and emphasis in tracking people with them increases in scale. One thing about living in a cell without bars: when you know which way to aim, you can exit anytime.

The willful misrepresentation of increased security as decreased options is movement suicide. While we are given no say in the advent of new technologies, ultimate control remains in how we respond. While we are never asked permission for cameras in public places or how communication tools will be used against us, we can claim control over whether we file this shift under "defeat", or "advantage". Will we respond with defeat, guaranteeing failure for us and death for those we fight for; or instead bring life to a changing landscape with the application of creativity and re-invention?

The Leveraging of Strengths

On the front of resources and physical might, we can never win. Our weapons are circumvention, invisibility, surprise, and justness of purpose.

Previous A.L.F. writings have cited Roger Taber's book The War of the Flea ("The Element of Surprise", Bite Back Magazine, 2003) offering necessary direction to a materially out-resourced resistance.

"The guerrilla fights the war of the flea, and his military enemy suffers the dog's disadvantages: too much to defend; too small, ubiquitous, and agile an enemy to come to grips with."

So begins Taber's work, emphasizing a resistance that by most measures suffers a disadvantage, must leverage its strengths. A movement's more disempowering members would have us direct our energies on the opposition's strengths, and those measures by which we cannot compete, flailing for metrics which justify their inaction. If we cannot compete in our numbers, we can only ask what advantages lower numbers offer. If we are not competitive in our resources, we can only ask what tools we do have that may strike a fatal blow. Wait a lifetime for an evening out of disparity that may never come, or stand up and leverage our strengths today.

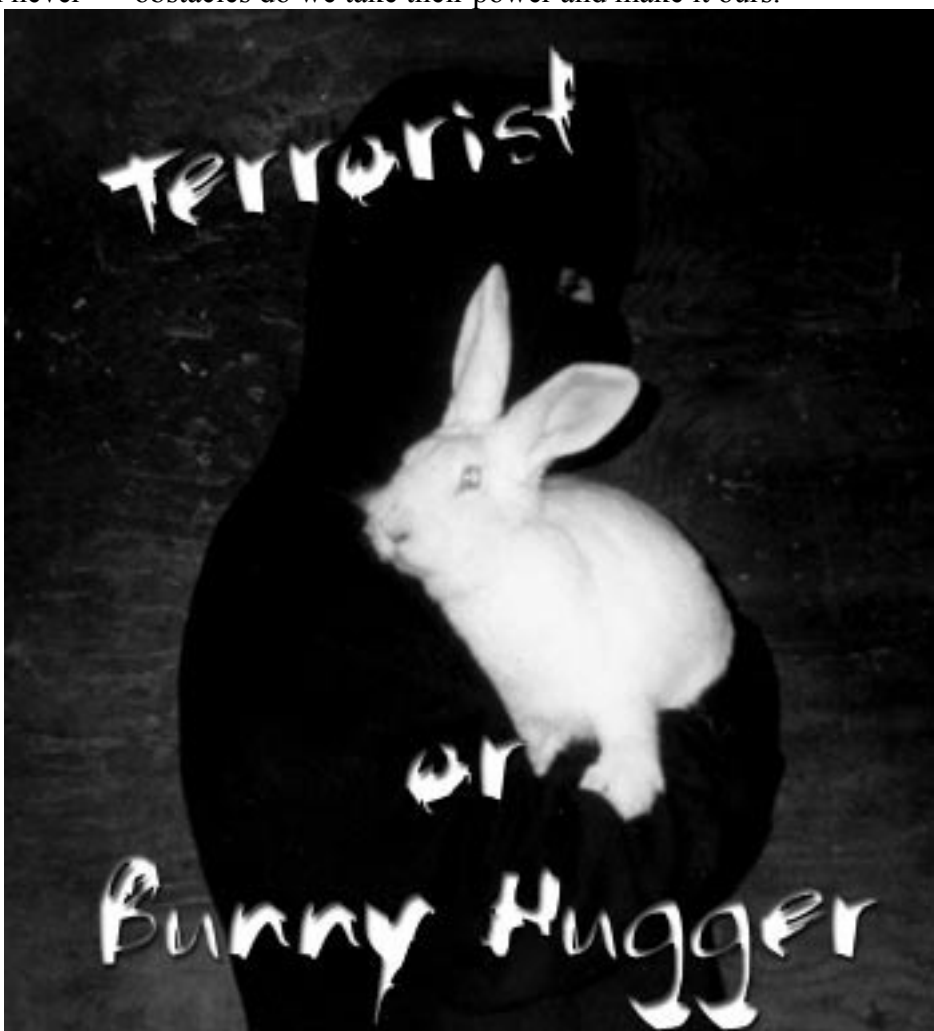
From Force-Fed Distractions to Net-Losses

Their obstacles become our opportunities. In this art of reversal, those things packaged as roadblocks become their weaknesses. We can look to the history books for the volumes of stories offered as lessons on their dictates being turned against them – to their greater detriment than had they never been imposed.

This reversal is carried out to great effect in every struggle, every day. Concerned people respond to inefficacy of spoon-fed protest models and act outside the law to achieve progress for non-human animals. Activists are sent to prison, and when their cases are publicized the effect for many is not fear, but galvanization translating to actions carried out in their name. They send one of ours to prison, the slack is picked up threefold by inspired activists who respond with raids. The opposition yields a net loss as it suffers more blows against their machine than was ever carried out by the fallen liberator.

Advance

It is either momentum reversal or defeat, tactical jujitsu or the end of all life. We cannot win this on the playing field of resources or legal standing. Only by capitalizing on their obstacles do we take their power and make it ours. ■



Pacifism or Animals: Which Do You Love More?

A Critique of Lee Hall, Friends of Animals, and the Franciombe Effect in the New Abolitionist Movement

By Steven Best and Jason Miller
Abridged version, read the entire article at www.thomaspainescorner.wordpress.com

Malcolm X once said, "I don't favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. Everybody would like to reach his objectives peacefully. But I'm also a realist. The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are black people."

Fast forward four decades and the same rings true for animal rights people.

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), one of the world's largest animal testing companies, is notorious for extreme animal abuse (torturing and killing 500 animals a day) and manipulated research data. To test everything from toothpaste and floor cleaners to Big Pharma drug concoctions, HLS mercilessly tortures and murders millions of dogs, rabbits, primates, rodents, and pigs each year. As evidence of senseless brutality for profit, on numerous occasions employees have been caught on tape punching beagle dogs in the face, dissecting live monkeys, and other barbarities. Yet despite its malevolence, Huntingdon reported revenues of $127.6 million for the first six months of 2008, an increase of 13.4% over the same period in 2007. Although HLS may be more hindered by SHAC's efforts than its glowing press releases reveal, it still maintains its despicable existence. Meanwhile six members of SHAC USA, a group dedicated to shutting down HLS through publicity campaigns and direct action, were given stiff prison sentences for the "crime" of running a website that provided information enabling other activists to engage in intimidation and property damage against HLS and its business partners. In a world dominated by speciesism and capitalism, an entity that has inflicted abject misery upon millions of sentient beings over the years operates with impunity and reaps economic reward for its violence. Meanwhile, defenders of those with no voice were imprisoned for acts of compassion.

Vivisectors, animal researchers, factory farmers, furriers, and their ilk condemn their victims– living beings who feel and suffer, just as we humans do– to a life that is so "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" it would have appalled even Thomas Hobbes. Socially conditioned to believe that we are the master species, most people condone the exploitation of animals "for the good of humanity." Others apathetically look the other way. Some, however, opt to oppose this abomination with tactics appropriate to the evils inflicted on animals, and yet they are as scorned by many in the animal advocacy movement in the same language and tone that one finds in the discourse of the FBI and SHAC's prosecutors.

Like Good Germans

"Our complex global economy is built upon millions of small, private acts of psychological surrender, the willingness of people to acquiesce in playing their assigned parts as cogs in the great social machine that encompasses all other machines. They must shape themselves to the prefabricated identities that make efficient coordination possible… that capacity for self-enslavement must be broken." Theodore Roszak

Ironically, the relatively few animal defenders who carry out the struggle against the monstrous animal-industrial complex through militant direct action (MDA), such as property destruction and liberating caged animals, often find that animal exploiters are not their only opponents. In a perverse twist, a surprisingly large number of people whom the casual observer would assume to be allied with direct activists often align themselves with animal oppressors in their rush to show they "reach across the aisle," "remain civil," "work within the system," and above all, "adhere to non-violence." They become perfect puppets of the corporate-state complex.

One can stop wondering why the animal advocacy movement is losing the fight, as meat consumption

Continued on page 10

To read the full communiques of the list of actions below, visit the NAALPO web site at **animalliberationpressoffice.org**

1.5.09 - Los Angeles, CA
LA Animal Services
Jim Blackmans had red paint and glued locks left at the house to remind him of the blood on his hands.
Claimed by An angry Angelino

1.5.09 - Los Angeles, CA
Greeting card with blood and rat poisoned covered razor blades sent to UCLA primate vivisector Edythe London.
Claimed by Justice Department

1.8.09 - Mexico
Five Telmex phone booths burnt.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.10.09 - Berkeley, CA
UC Berkeley primate vivisectors Jack Gallant and Yang Dan (who also kills cats and rodents in her laboratory) had all of their mail re-directed to addresses in Florida.
Claimed by Students for Animal Liberation

1.10.09 - Mexico
Fifteen Telmex phone booths sabotaged.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.10.09 - Davis, CA
Letter bombs sent to two vivisectors, Edward Schelegle and Catherine Vandevoort, from the California National Primate Research Center- UC Davis
Claimed by Revolutionary Cells, Animal Liberation Brigade

1.11.09 - Mexico State
Multiple meat, pet shops graffitied.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.12.09 - Mexico State
Catholic Church- Ducks Liberated
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.12.09 - Canada
Winner's Stores' fur coats sabotaged at an estimated $25,000 cost.
Unclaimed

1.15.09 - Mexico
Ten Telmex phone booths sabotaged with spray paint.
Claimed by Luddites Against Domestication of Wild Nature

1.17.09 - Mexico
Twenty Telmex phone booths vandalized.
Unclaimed

1.20.09 - Huntingdon Life Sciences
Cyberspace
Hackers Against Oppression targeted PDP Couriers and Phenomenex, two suppliers of Huntingdon Life Sciences, with the intent to bring the company's websites down for the day.
Claimed by Hackers Against Oppression

1.24.09 - Mexico State
Unnamed "Meat" Company's shutters lit aflame.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.24.09 - Mexico State
KFC targetted with paint-filled bulbs, graffiti, lamp shattered.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

1.27.09 - Puebla, Mexico
Unnamed "Poultry" place of business covered in automobile oil and graffitied.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

2.1.09 - UC Berkeley
Berkeley, CA
Vivisector Gregory Timmel's automobile vandalized.
Claimed by Berkeley Students for Animal Liberation

2.3.09 - Mexico
Two dogs rescued from unknown dog abuser.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

2.5.09 - Mexico
Unnamed Shops that murder animals gaffitied.
Claimed by A.L.F-C.V.N (ALF Mexico)

2.5.09 - San Clemente, CA
UCLA van paint-stripped and a surprize stashed underneath.
Claimed by Animal Liberation Front

2.6.09 - Mexico
The Plaza de Toros Mexico graffitied and doused with muriatic acid bombs for hosting bullfights.
Unclaimed

2.7.09 - Mexico
Windshields of bullfighter's car smashed with stones and sticks, arena walls were stained with paint, and a homemade bomb shook the plaza square.
Unclaimed

2.8.09 - Mexico
Five Telmex phone booths set aflame
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

2.8.09 - Mexico
Chicken slaughterhouse damaged by fire
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

2.11.09 - Mexico
Nine Telmex phone booths glued and dismantled
Claimed by Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

2.14.09 - Mexico City
Mendele Leather Corporation painted in slogans, including a personal message to one of the owners "Aaron, you are in the sights of these f.l.a."
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

2.14.09 - Winston-Salem, NC
Wake Forest University vivisectors, Paul Czoty and Linda Porrino, received poison-covered razors in the mail.
Claimed by Justice Department

2.27.09 - Salt Lake City, UT
Three Utah Vivisectors all received multi-thousands of dollars worth of magazine subscriptions.
Claimed by Postal Annoyance Brigade

2.28.09 - Mexico City
More than twenty Telmex phone booths sabotaged with superglue.
Claimed by Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature-Mexico

3.1.09 - Tucson, AZ
Tucson Vivisector Katalin Gothard and Rosemont Copper Director of Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Kathy Arnold's homes received etching cream on their windows.
Claimed by Tucson Hooligans Attack at Night

3.3.09 - Jaltenco, Mexico
Police Department in Jaltenco graffitied in response to the endless slaughter of dogs and cats by the police officers of said municipality.
Claimed by FLA (ALF-Mexico)

3.6.09 - Los Angeles, CA
LA Animal Services
The home and driveway of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's sister was redecorated in red paint to serve as a reminder of his inability to cooperate and hire a new manager for Los Angeles Animal Shelters.
Claimed by Animal Liberation Front

3.6.09 - Jaltenco, Mexico
The Public Ministry of the Judicial Police in Jaltenco was hit with arson as a response to the continuous slaughter of dogs and cats perpetuated by police in said municipality. The damage was estimated at thousands of pesos.
Claimed by FLA (ALF Mexico)

3.7.09 - Jaltenco, Mexico
Public Ministry of the Judicial Police painted in protest: 'The fire was not an accident!' and 'F.L.A.M.A..' Then, a few meters ahead in a health center belonging to the torturing government of Mexico State, while police were distracted, we painted on one of its white walls, 'Fire to the police for the massacre of defenseless animals on the 23rd!'
Claimed by F.L.A.M.A

3.8.09 - Los Angeles, CA
UCLA Primate Vivisector David Jentsch's automobile set aflame.
Claimed by Animal Liberation Brigade

3.9.09 - Riverton, South Jordan, Herriman, UT
The restrooms of multiple restaurants including eight McDonalds, five KFC's, two Carls Jr.'s, and a Sizzler's were spraypainted in slogans and toilets were clogged with sponges. Most restaurants also had their gas subsequently turned off.
Claimed by Animal Liberation Front

3.9.09 - Utah
Our latest Annoyance Attack was on the Fur Industry!
This attack was even bigger than our previous attack on University of Utah Researchers. Twelve companies/individuals associated with the cruel fur trade recieved thousands of dollars worth of magazine subscriptions and junk mail.
Claimed by The Postal Annoyance Brigade (P.A.B.)

3.11.09 - Mexico
Five Telmex phone booths sabotaged.
Claimed by Luddites Against Domestication of Wild Nature

3.11.09 - Mexico state
Several unknown shops that exploint animals attacked with graffiti.
Claimed by FLA (ALF-Mexico)

3.11.09 - Mexico State
Graffiti in opposition to domestication and in favor of animal, human and earth liberation was painted on many walls in Mexico State, as a way of spreading anti-anthropocentrist ideas.
Claimed by Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

3.13.09 - Mexico State
Jaltenco municipal police in Mexico State found a bomb with a metal band, cables, batteries and a clock; in the end they found that it was a false alarm, and that it was accompanied by a message: 'We will burn down the Judicial MP, soon the fire will be for you' 'Vengeance for the animals murdered on the 23rd'
Claimed by 'F.L.A.M.A'

3.14.09 - Mexico City
KFC's windows were smashed and the windows and a security camera of an unnamed bank sabotaged.
Claimed by Eco-Anarchist Cell for Direct Attack

3.15.09 - Mexico
Fourteen businesses that deal with animal exploitation were glued, along with several telephones of Telmex also sabotaged.
Claimed by Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

3.16.09 - Unnamed US City
KFC on Mission street's windows were smashed.
Claimed by autonomous rebels for social collapse

3.16.09 - HLS
"Electronic Sit In" began targeting the websites of RMSBG (HLS auditors), Bayer (HLS customer) and one of HLS' own websites.
The sabotage works when a large number of computers continuously load the target website, tying up the website's bandwidth and denying legitimate users access.
Unclaimed.

3.20.09 - Hematite, MO
One female rabbit liberated from rabbit breeders in Missouri.
Claimed by Animal Liberation Front

3.23.09 - Columbia, MD
Iron Bridge Wine Co.
Threats from underground liberationists
Unclaimed

skyrockets, animal exploitation increases exponentionally, the sixth great species extinction crisis rapidly accelerates, and the planetary ecosystem irrevocably comes undone. Couple Gansen's dogmatic adherence to declawed and defanged "socially acceptable" forms of activism with her conclusion that, "the effect of some alleged 'animal terrorists' in recent years is that laws are now on the books that may be used against people who trespass on land to get real evidence that is needed to put someone in jail," and it becomes apparent that Gansen is a clone of Lee Hall, the consummate smug bourgeois liberal, loathe to break the law or directly challenge capitalism.

Hall, a former adjunct law professor at Rutgers, legal director of Friends of Animals, and protégé of fellow lawyer and animal rights advocate Gary Francione, is an unwavering pacifist who believes the war against animals can be won by converting the world to veganism (a 2006 Harris poll determined that 1.4% of the US population was vegan—we're almost there!). Hall epitomizes the loyal opposition that has sustained the rancid and ruthless capitalist system throughout its history. In two of Hall's many woefully misguided jeremiads against militant direct action, she arrogantly dismisses the risk, loss, suffering, and value of those who have dared to give wholesale animal murderers and torturers a tiny taste of their own medicine. Rather than recognizing their courageous efforts as an integral part of a revolutionary struggle for animal liberation, she demonizes direct activists, scapegoats them for draconian laws protecting the animal industrial complex, and leaves readers with the impression that the movement would be light years ahead without groups such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and SHAC. Thus, once activists break with tired forms of protest and find more creative ways to truly threaten the economic interests of exploiters and even the capital supply to an entire nation (as SHAC and other liberationists did in England), then corporations and governments will rise like a sleeping dragon and belch fire in a serious counter-attack.

While Hall and her followers may believe the myth that we can do battle with the corporate-state monster peacefully and that "peaceful" tactics alone can defeat violence, intelligent animal liberationists recognize that if they turn the other cheek, animal-exploiters will slap them down like rag dolls. They recognize that time has grown too short to move at the snail's pace afforded by peaceful resistance, that the rapidly worsening ecological crisis does not allow the long march through the state and the plate and that we have but moments to effect radical change and to topple the dominionist paradigm informing nearly all human thought, none greater than the Western bankers and timber, mining, agriculture, and biotechnology corporations.

While many non-violent, legal tactics are often necessary and useful to advance animal liberation, they are impotent without being supplemented by radical direct action, as they pose no immediate threat to the global capitalist system that enables the moneyed elite to prey upon billions of non-human (and human) animals each year to fuel growth and profits. CEO's don't lose much sleep over a student petition campaign, a weekly vegan outreach program downtown, or a Sunday potluck dinner with a vegan speaker, as these efforts barely break past 1% of the US population. But exploiters do suffer nightmares when they themselves come under attack and realize there is a real possibility that their property could catch fire or their bloody businesses could be brought down by a gas can and a match.

As powerful and effective as Martin Luther King and his followers were with their non-violent approach, institutionalized racism would exist even more today were it not for the militant presence and tactics of Malcolm X and the Black Panthers. Just as the power elite spawned COINTELPRO in reaction to the emerging social movements of the 1960s, so forty years later they enacted the AETA to squelch the successful tactics of groups like the ALF and SHAC. In short, they are afraid. And that is a good thing. Let them tremble in with some scintilla of the fear they inflict on their animal victims.

We need the largest and most systemic and inclusive vision and strategy possible, one that fears no consequence of logic and is attuned to historical precedents. We need the most uncompromising, militant form of politics we can muster or we shall all just be washed away by the tsunami of corporate repression and buried by the chaos and violence of ecological disaster rumbling on the horizon.

Collaborationists in the Churchyard

"We are a violent species, and we always solve our problems with violence. There have been no exceptions. Nonviolent victories are a myth. Force has always prevailed. The independence of India was not achieved by Gandhi alone; there was a violent insurgency going on against the British at the same time. Gandhi utilized nonviolence as a tactic against the self-righteous British for the purpose of humiliating them, and it worked; whereas it would never have worked against the Nazis or Stalin's Communist Party. Martin Luther King did not win civil rights achievements by himself; he had the help of the Black Panthers and riots in the streets. Nonviolence works as a compliment to violent action; it has never worked by itself. Violence can only be defeated by a greater force of violence or by the strategic implementation of applied violence." Paul Watson

Like the ever treacherous centrists in US politics, Hall peddles a middle-of-the-road approach, minimizing conflict and ultimately playing into the avaricious grasp of the "enemy" — oops, sorry– in Hall's Jesus/Gandhian/Kingian pacifist playbook we are supposed to "love" our "enemies" like lost brothers — by completely eliminating the option of MDA as a necessary and effective tactic. In Hall's delusional, blue-pill world, vegan outreach and education by a relative handful of dedicated activists will eventually overcome the staggeringly powerful opposition of billions of meat-addicted speciesists and profit-hungry animal exploiters. We need to fight for human, animal, and Earth liberation immediately, full-out, peddle to the metal, and by any and every means necessary.

A cursory look at the fanfare littering Internet forums and review sites shows that Capers in the Churchyard has received almost unanimous praise, with legions of fans breathlessly extolling it as "the best animal rights book ever." This could be because it is the only animal rights book they ever read. Or because its bubble-gum flavor reinforces the pacifist illusions they picked up from Gandhi and King. Or even because it is a feel-good, Panglossian tract that lulls people into thinking that we can change the world through education and legislation, without serious levels of agitation. Yet again, it could be because those who know nothing of the history of social movements, who do not understand the complexity of social power dynamics, and who are myopically single-issue in their approach to animal rights can easily swallow Hall's simplistic, opiate-laced nonsense that a vegan revolution will not only bring animal liberation, but will be the trigger and catalyst for social revolution in general.

Capers is not just a bad book, it is a dangerous book. Unfortunately it poses no danger to the system that tortures and murders 52 billion land animals and 90 billion marine animals each year; it is, rather, a threat to those opposing it. Hall naïvely obscures how long, hard, and difficult the struggle for animal liberation will be. She myopically and ahistorically glosses over the fact that many different kinds of social movements will have to strike back hard at systemic oppression and find ways to form powerful alliances of resistance to bring about the level of radical social transformation needed to bring this planet back from its tailspin into catastrophe. Instead, despite their occasional nods to alliance politics, she and Francione peddle single-issue and elitist fantasies that dietary transformation can spark general social transformation.

Essentialism and the Religion of Pacifism

"Pacifism is generally considered to be a morally unassailable position to take with respect to human violence. … While it can seem noble enough when the stakes are low, pacifism is ultimately nothing more than a willingness to die, and to let others die, at the pleasure of the world's thugs. It should be enough to note that a single sociopath, armed with nothing more than a knife, could exterminate a city full

of pacifists. … Here we come upon a terrible facet of ethically asymmetric warfare: when your enemy has no scruples, your own scruples become another weapon in his hand." Sam Harris

"Here is somebody who can really think," says sycophant Jeffrey Masson in his vegan creampuff introduction to Capers. Without embarrassment, Masson goes further to say that Hall "provides all the evidence that allows you to advance your own thinking." If this book is a stellar example of "thinking," the animal rights movement is in serious crisis. Far from a paradigm of thought, Capers is rather a minefield of fallacies, ranting, propaganda, ad hominems, and vulgar demagoguery. It should indeed be taught in philosophy classes – as a model of how not to think.

Capers in the Churchyard is replete with this type of dogmatic, patronizing, and arrogant attitude based on a tendentious essentializing of the meaning of "animal rights." Hall and her minions define animal rights ex cathedra as if theirs is the only "true" moral philosophy and praxis and everything else is reformist or extremist. They employ this Platonic platitude to enshrine their doctrine as eternal truth. Make no mistake about it. Hall and Francione view themselves as messiahs and expect nothing less than parroting the party line from their loyal adherents and apparatchiks. **When did vanity, egoism, competitiveness, and megalomania become vegan values?**

Consider even more from Hall and her fellow Franciombes at FoA: "Above all, the key change is diet, for it is absurd to discuss the rights of animals as we eat them. The vegetarian movement employs the most direct action of all." Diet is THE most direct action of all? THE key? THE One Way? Based on what criteria? We agree that veganism is a profound form of direct action and that vegan outreach and education are important indeed, but to call it THE most direct action of all? The hubris in this statement rivals the arrogance in Hall's notion that her concept of animal rights is THE concept divined by her alone. We were under the impression that the ALF and similar groups engaged in some extremely successful and important direct actions on behalf of animals. But apparently in Lee Hall's world, theirs are simply the actions of terrorists and therefore, in Stalinist fashion, just erased from history.

In Capers, as in all her work, Hall grossly caricatures the direct action movement with distorted portraits and propaganda that often exceed the criticism of noxious industry front groups such as the Center for Consumer Freedom. With nary a nuance in sight, she dismisses groups like the ALF and SHAC as all "coercive" or "criminal" and as never having made any contributions to the movement because they have violated her dogmatic adherence to non-violence.

Is she opposed also to the Boston Tea Party? To the sabotage tactics of suffragettes? To the ANC? To the anti-Nazi resistance movement? The latter is a paradigmatic counter to pacifism, and has to be taken on by absolutistic critics of violence. But in Capers Hall only raises the question to dismiss it in cryptic terms, and in one paragraph at that! The question remains, and troubles her simplistic black-and-white, this-or-that, either-or worldview. Like Hall, animal rights philosopher Tom Regan defines the sabotage perpetrated by direct activists as violence, but he at least considers cases where violence is potentially necessary and legitimate.

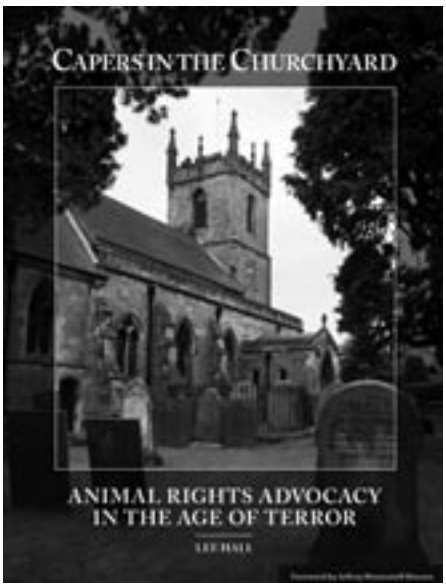
The Stench of Hypocrisy

"People often say that violence accomplishes nothing, that it's ineffective. Violence is dreadfully effective. That's why those in power use it." **- Derrick Jensen**

Violence has been a ubiquitous and necessary element in justice struggles throughout history. Hitler, for instance, could never have been defeated without the use of violent methods, nor would the American Revolution have been possible. Vital forces of ethics and justice have involved groups such as the Jewish Resistance, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Gandhi and the Indian independence movement, the Suffragettes, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement, and Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress. All of them broke the law, destroyed the enemy's property, or committed violence; they were beaten, jailed, killed, and denounced as extremists or the equivalent of terrorists. Yet who will argue that their actions were wrong? Today we lionize Nelson Mandela as a great hero, but he and the ANC used violence to win their freedom. People forget that

the much-heralded Suffragettes in England and the US used arson and bombs to help win the emancipation of women. Few if any movements for social change have succeeded without a radical fringe, without civil disobedience, property destruction, and even violence — so why should one expect it to be any different with the animal liberation struggle?

It is incredibly naïve to believe that a revolution of the scale and complexity such as needed now can come about through education, legislation, and prompting veganism on a mass scale. From our pluralist, pragmatist, and contextualist position, we can surely see these as important tactics, but they need to be supplemented by direct action and, more importantly, by a revolutionary social movement propelled by numerous groups in an anti-capitalist alliance politics.



Typically, those who vilify saboteurs as "violent" leap to the conclusion that they are "terrorists," failing to realize that there is an important difference insofar as one can use violence in morally legitimate ways in conditions ranging from self-defense to a "just war." The ALF is not a terrorist organization because (1) they never physically injure people, and (2) they never target anyone but those directly involved in the war against animals. Let's do away with any false absolutist position and some serious hypocrisy while we are at it. Just as causing physical violence to another "person" is not always right, nor is it always wrong. There is wide assent that violence is legitimate to defend innocent human beings from being wrongly harmed or killed by others. In the paradigm case, who truly condemns the use of property destruction and violence to free Jewish prisoners from Nazi genocide? Resistance fighters blew up train tracks, gas ovens, and killed German soldiers at every possible opportunity.

But if discussion turns to the use of property destruction or physical violence to liberate animals from oppression, suddenly there is outcry that this tactic is wrong, violent, and counter-productive. Appealing to critics to overcome the fallacy of speciesism and to think in a rigorously consistent manner, we simply ask: why? Why are the anti-Nazi resistance fighters heroes while the ALF are terrorists? Why is economic sabotage and violence acceptable to use in defense of human beings but not animals? This gross inconsistency ought to embarrass every unprejudiced and logical person and it is a scandal when paraded about by a so-called "animal advocate." It is just a disguised form of speciesism whereby extraordinary actions are courageous and laudable if done on behalf of human animals but despicable and deplorable if taken for nonhuman animals.

Love Thy Oppressors

"There are many people who feel that it is useless and futile for us to continue talking peace and non-violence — against a government whose only reply is savage attacks on an unarmed and defenseless people. And I think the time has come for us to consider, in the light of our experiences at this day at home, whether the methods which we have applied so far are adequate."
Nelson Mandela

"So let us not talk falsely now, The hour is getting late."
Bob Dylan, "All Along the Watchtower"

Hall and fellow Franciombes suffer from a severe case of Stockholm Syndrome, identifying far more with animal oppressors than with animal liberators throughout her nauseating Capers in the Churchyard and "one vegan recipe

"Find me one whale that disagrees with the action and we will no longer do such things but until then, we could not give a damn what human beings have to say about the action."

—Captian Paul Watson
Sea Shepherd
Conservation Society

at a time" approach to animal liberation. In the series of open letter exchanges Hall had with the SPLC about their "Intelligence Report" that compared members of the ALF and SHAC to abortion clinic bombers like the Army of God, Hall lashes out at "activists who glorify aggression" to reassure those at the helm of our oppressive and exploitative system that they have nothing to fear from the AR movement. 18 No intimidation or sabotage here. Just an appeal to humanity's alleged inner moral goodness and The Joy of Tofu.

Comparing the amount of invective that Hall dishes out against animal rights militants to that she reserves for corporate exploiters of billions of animals, it is obvious that she sympathizes far more with animal oppressors than she does with militant animal activists and that she'd probably rather see Kevin Jonas and Josh Harper of the SHAC7 go to jail before Brian Cass of HLS or David Novak of Yum! Brands, Inc. She goes so far as to virtually apologize to corporate animal exploiters for the rude ways militant activists treat them.

To be clear: We are not advocating the use of physical violence as a first strike measure or pivotal tactic for animal liberation, but nor are we taking it off the table as something that has to be dogmatically excluded on fundamentalist pacifist principles alone. We prefer not to disarm this struggle against monumental evil and destruction of life in any way. In some contexts outside the First World, in particular, violence may be very necessary – such as to save the Rwandan mountain gorillas from extinction, and indeed there is an armed struggle of soldiers against poachers to do this. Thankfully, Hall is not directing this effort, for the gorillas would be slaughtered and served as burgers, right next to Hall's Vegan Outreach stand giving away free tofu pups. ■

Dr. Steve Best is Thomas Paine's Corner's senior editor of total liberation and animal rights. Associate professor of philosophy at UTEP, award-winning writer, noted speaker, public intellectual, and seasoned activist, Steven Best engages the issues of the day such as animal rights, ecological crisis, biotechnology, liberation politics, terrorism, mass media, globalization, and capitalist domination. Best has published 10 books, over 100 articles and reviews, spoken in over a dozen countries, interviewed with media throughout the world, appeared in numerous documentaries, and was voted by VegNews as one of the nations "25 Most Fascinating Vegetarians." He has come under fire for his uncompromising advocacy of "total liberation" (humans, animals, and the earth) and has been banned from the UK for the power of his thoughts. From the US to Norway, from Sweden to France, from Germany to South Africa, Best shows what philosophy means in a world in crisis.

Jason Miller is a relentless anti-capitalist, straight edge vegan, and animal liberationist. He is also the founder and editor of Thomas Paine's Corner, blog director for The Transformative Studies Institute and associate editor for the Journal for Critical Animal Studies.

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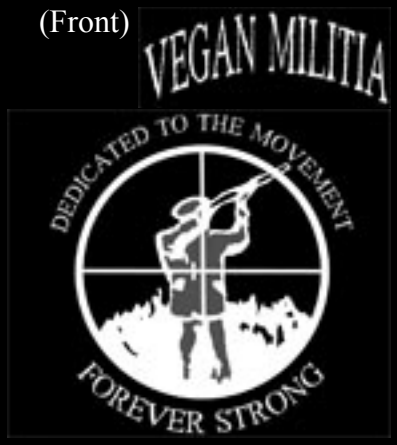
Animal Rights Militia



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"We know where you go during the day, we know where you do your dry cleaning, we know where you shop and we know that you will end up being cornered and taught a lesson you and your family will never forget."
- Justice Department

"We won't stop until you stop killing countless numbers of animals for your tastebuds and pocketbooks."
-Animal Liberation Front

"... we're the people whom you least suspect and when we hit we hit hard."
-Animal Liberation Brigade

"We're not going to stop these attacks. The flame of animal liberation is unstoppable!"
-FLA México

"We have to organize and become involved in well coordinated action which will involve any means necessary to bring about complete elimination of the conditions that exist ..... It takes action to get action." - Malcolm X

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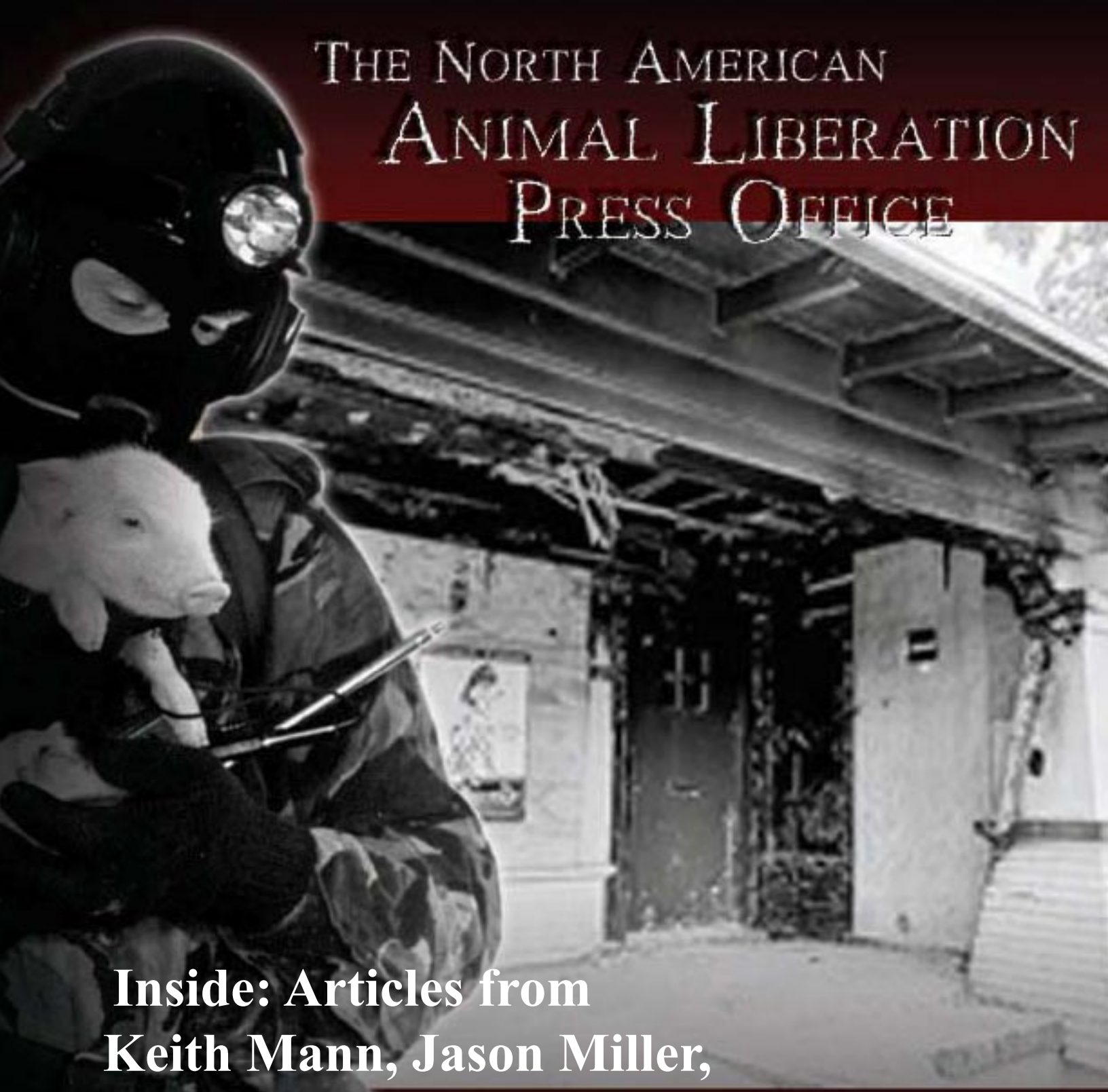
The North American Animal Liberation Press Office



Inside: Articles from Keith Mann, Jason Miller, all the latest actions, and Heather Nicholson- letter from prison

Limited Edition Periodical

vol.2

North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Press Office Directive:

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded in 2004 to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit and research. Within these conditions, those in the underground, working for animal liberation, often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent", with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously and otherwise inconsequentially inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals. In addition to reporting the courageous and necessary actions of the underground, NAALPO's second objective is to provide the reader with thought-provoking pieces that will serve as tools to the individual and to the future of the Animal Liberation Movement.

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press@animalliberationpressoffice.org

Disclaimer: The Animal Liberation Press Officers do not engage in illegal activities, nor do they know any individuals who do. Neither does this website or the Press Office indend to encourage illegal actions. Rather, the Press Office receives and posts communiqués from anonymous parties and provides comment to the media.

Since there isn't a way to contact individuals working underground (their identity is not known to anyone in the aboveground movement), the use of communiqués is one way the underground communicates with the public at large. Communiqués can be sent directly to anyone including the press, underground support groups, aboveground animal rights groups, etc.

Because the individuals who engage in underground actions cannot reveal their identities to anyone, a North American Animal Liberation Press Office has been created to try to answer some of the questions as to why these actions may have been carried out, and to place the actions in a historical and philosophical context. Since we do not engage in illegal activities ourselves, we do not know the details of these actions, but we can try to the best of our ability to give you a better understanding of why a particular action may have been carried out.

July 2009

Since our last newsletter, the animal liberation underground has been very busy indeed. Mexico is on fire…in some places quite literally…as energetic underground groups crisscross Mexico on a rampage against animal exploitation and abuse. Raids and economic sabotage of cockfighting and bullfighting suppliers, pet shops, meat markets, TelMex (state telephone company) and countless actions against fast food restaurants, made for a extremely active quarter for the FLA (ALF Mexico) and other underground groups operating in Mexico.

Canada was heard from by communiqué announcing the liberation of rabbits from a Quebec petting zoo. Meanwhile, in America, UCLA continued their aggressive campaign to use taxpayer funds to silence legitimate peaceful protest against vivisection on their campus. The Animal Liberation Front and the Justice Department quickly let them know just how meaningless restraining orders can be. Both UCLA and UC Berkeley were targeted, UCLA multiple times.

Add to that, a spectacular liberation of pheasants and quails from a game farm in Oregon and top it all off with an attack on a Nevada company that used to supply primates to researchers. It has been reported that an estimated $300,000 worth of damage was sustained by Scientific Resources International. A person identifying himself as a Manager, who wisely withheld his name, said that the building was ruined and that Scientific Resources International would be unable to conduct business.

The "Green Scare" and government repression rage on, although underground warriors don't seem to be paying any attention to it at all. Trial has begun for two activists who have pleaded not-guilty to charges of raiding a Utah fur farm and liberating it's occupants and four California activists, now known as the "AETA 4", are facing federal charges for "terror by chalked sidewalk graffiti and naughty flyering". Also in California, activists Linda Greene and Kevin Olliff face multiple felony charges in relation to their high profile, above ground activism.

In Utah, grand jury resistor Jordan Halliday has been imprisoned since March 13, 2009 for refusing to answer inappropriate questions about the animal rights activist community in his area. This grand jury was empaneled to investigate the fur farm raids in Utah; but has instead gone on a fishing expedition to learn more about the activist community in a blatant attempt to chill free speech. It is possible that Jordan may be incarcerated until the end of the grand jury's term.

On May 21, 2009, in a stunning announcement by the FBI, Daniel Andreas San Diego was added to the "Most Wanted Terrorist List", right up there, on the top row, alongside international terrorist, Usama Bin Laden. Daniel is alleged to have committed an attack on two California biotech companies that caused minimal property damage and which injured no one. The attacks were related to the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign that targets Huntingdon Life Sciences, a company that brutally and needlessly kills 500 animals every day. Bin Laden is wanted for allegedly having masterminded the 9/11 World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, which resulted in thousands of deaths.

The intent of such focused and unreasonable government repression is to scare above ground activists into silence and to break the will and resolve of the animal liberation underground. As usual, they have gotten it all wrong. Gross and blatant injustice is being met with a heightened spirit of resistance and a renewed determination to continue the fight for animal liberation. The ever growing list of actions by the underground only goes to show that for every activist that is imprisoned others come forward to take their place and even more see the wisdom in stealthily going about the business of animal liberation in the shadows of the night.

With communiqués coming in almost daily, this has been a very challenging time for the Press Office. Numerous press interviews, radio programs and an invitation to speak at the International Critical Animal Studies Conference, held at Yale University, gave Press Officers many opportunities to correct the misinformation delivered by mass media and to educate the public about the important work of the animal liberation underground. NAALPO exhibited at Anarchist Book Fairs on both the West Coast and the East Cost. On May 17, 2009, a masked black bloc contingent representing the Animal Liberation Front marched in the 2nd Annual Veggie Pride Parade in New York City under the Green Anarchy Antispe (Anti-Speciesism) flag.

Some say that the effectiveness of direct action is measured by the high degree of repression that is leveled against it. Others believe that the measure of effectiveness is how much economic and psychological damage is inflicted on its targets. Whether you subscribe to the former or the latter, clearly direct action is having an impact. In Mexico, as a result of a series of FLA raids on a supplier of fighting cocks, 20 cages now stand empty and the breeder has gone out of business. In Nevada, Scientific Resources International is unable to do business from their burnt out shell of a building. Somewhere in Oregon, quail and pheasant are perched on branches surveying their wild domain, while elsewhere in Utah, once caged mink run wild and free.

It is the North American Animal Liberation Press Office's great honor to continue to report every animal liberation, every act of economic sabotage and ruined equipment, every broken window and glued lock and any other action that brings us a step closer to our ultimate goal…total animal liberation.

We look forward to meeting many of you in June at the Let Live Conference in Portland, Oregon (http://www.letlivefoundation.org/conference/) and in July at the AR2009 National Animal Rights Conference in Los Angeles, California (http://arconference.org). If you are at either conference please drop by the NAALPO exhibit and say hello.

Until every cage is empty and destroyed.

■

"Just look at us. Everything is backwards; everything is upside down. Doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy knowledge, governments destroy freedom, the major media destroy information and religions destroy spirituality" Michael Ellner

Since I overcame the cloudy negative restraints imposed on me during my formative years of state sponsored schooling and instead learnt to prioritise life on this planet and to think for myself I have become exposed to an extraordinarily different picture to their version. Fractions, logarithms, history and religion were one thing but the world outside the rigid curriculum is quite something else. Relevant in fact! History it turns out is 'his story' and not the truth at all!

The use of other animals is a big part of the problem we face on this planet and addressing this is an essential ingredient in the healing process. You disrespect one you disrespect all yet our world is governed by ruthless, heartless monsters who lack all empathy and compassion and whose goal is absolute power and control over all life on this Earth.

I found my place sabotaging hunting events and sneaking into farms and laboratories to expose the horrors they hide. I have personally experienced the incomprehensible force directed at people who want to save animals from their short, tortuous existence and see the increase in this anger as more of us seek to bring change. It's clear there is a concerted attempt from those who control human society to slow down the inevitable climb in to a higher level of consciousness and compassion.

Their attempts to slow me down as I've sought to adjust the direction of our world have included prison sentences totalling seven and a half years, endless raids on my homes and those of close friends and all manner of cowardly, low level intimidation. The last time the police came knocking they were in search of half a dozen battery hens they thought I had rescued from waste pits below battery cages that they had fallen from. These wretched creatures would have died a slow death in dark stinking cellars below but the enforcers of this retarded structure they call an advanced society came not to complement me on my ingenuity or compassion but rather to take my computers and phone books and 'Why Vegan?' leaflets and sneer about "tasty chicken nuggets" and make threats. They didn't find the birds, they're alive and well and living under assumed names somewhere.

It's this incompatible human behaviour that motivates me. I want to live somewhere that people are nurtured to be nice. Here on Earth. So, here goes today's attempt to partake information that may assist me in that goal. As truth seekers we must share news and information that we believe people should know or could lead them to discover. Knowledge is power which is precisely why so much of it is hidden from us. We know so little of the reality of life around us that its mind boggling for many people to accept the real version of events or even a sniff of them. Thinking for ourselves' removes the comfort zone we have had created for us but the comfort zone is itself an illusion. Farm animals are a classic example as our complicity through inaction leads to an endless stream of distress, discomfort and death as these animals and their products are churned out for human consumption. The more we realise the awesome connotations which are looming large for every human being on this planet if we don't address our behaviour the less able people are able to ignore this situation.

Anyone who is serious about changing things while believing the traditional methods of bringing that about are sufficient will I hope have a look at some of the

evidence that exists that indicates quite clearly that most of what we call the real world is in fact an illusion. A web of deceit and omission designed to keep us hidden from the true nature of what we are and are capable of being. Today is the day to take one step back, have a look at what we haven't been told and look again at the way forward. Our lives are in the hands of very twisted controllers and if you look around the world its clear to see they don't care for the misery and destruction they bring. You'd be forgiven for thinking that they thrive on it and that is a very real probability.

While in prison I begun to pen a voluminous collection of stories interlinking the history of the Animal Liberation Movement and the pivotal role of the Animal Liberation Front. This was a mammoth task and so long overdue and it took me 15 years to complete but the response since its release has been truly overwhelming. I wrote a good book that tells a remarkable story of an ideal that is leading the way to a more inclusive, loving society. Order yours now, 650 pages plus 140 photographs. You can buy the book, From Dusk til Dawn for $30 plus shipping within the US by e-mailing: Press@AnimalLiberationPressOffice.org It is also available to buy securely online using PayPal (a PayPal account is not required, just a valid debit or credit card). Website: www.fromdusktildawn.org.uk

My book is a truth teller. The truth is all important. What say everything you have been taught to believe turned out was wrong? And I mean everything! What would evidence of life on Mars mean to your daily life? Probably not a lot on the face of it, though it could meddle with the Jesus fable somewhat! What about the glaring oddities in the media version of the 7/7 bombings in London that make the government/media version impossible? What would irrefutable proof of 9/11 being a self inflicted wound mean to you? Bear in mind that event alone has set in motion a never ending global war on people. What of the Constitution defying Patriot Acts that came hot on the heels of 9/11? What if you were to discover that just about every other significant event in history including the current financial meltdown, the wars, terrorist attacks

and assassinations were deliberately orchestrated by a network of interbreeding families who can be traced back to antiquity and who can be found today at the top of the pyramid of control that dominates all our lives? What if it was they who created the various religions to divert us from the real history of humanity and what we really are capable of? What if they control governments and both sides in democratic elections and don't give a shit who wins cos they always do? What if you found out that the Texan wide boy George W Bush was the 13th cousin of the current Queen of England and that most US presidents are related to each other and in the same inbred genetic pool as European royalty? This extended family is cold and calculated and has it in for us all, human and non human and we need to stick together.

The power structures that built the pyramids and other unworldly monuments all across the Earth thousands of years ago didn't just go away. They are still in control today. They despise compassion and respect and they have an agenda and it involves the nightmare we envisage Earth becoming for us all, all but the ruling elite.

Weird indeed yet it's no secret that the world is under attack and that there is a disproportionate amount of cruelty and suffering taking place, its better we understand the reasons why and then we can fix them. There is a cure. The evidence of all I ponder over is out there, you just have to remove what preconceptions you may have and look for it. There are internet links at the end of this piece, I appreciate that time is precious but I urge everyone to start at the top and then go where your curiosity takes you. If you'd prefer to ignore it then you must do so. This is what they rely upon however in order to achieve their ends and deny us the world we desire for all beings.

If you know how things work and the best ways of dealing with them then there's nothing for you here. These ideas for you will probably be what are lazily dismissed as "conspiracy theories", things that just happen by chance or coincidence. Too many coincidences now for that to make any sense! Perhaps we just have to wait for things to turn good when the right politician 'gets in'? We tried that and it doesn't work. It isn't designed to. Obama may be a nice guy but he was put into place by the dark suits in the

shadows as they all are. He is as bad for all living beings on Earth as Bush, they all are.

If you think you know what's going on but want to learn then please switch off your TV because it's poisoning you and tuck in to the real news. Joining of the dots for oneself leads to new thinking about how we can fix the mess we are in, for me that has got to be worth at least a little look!

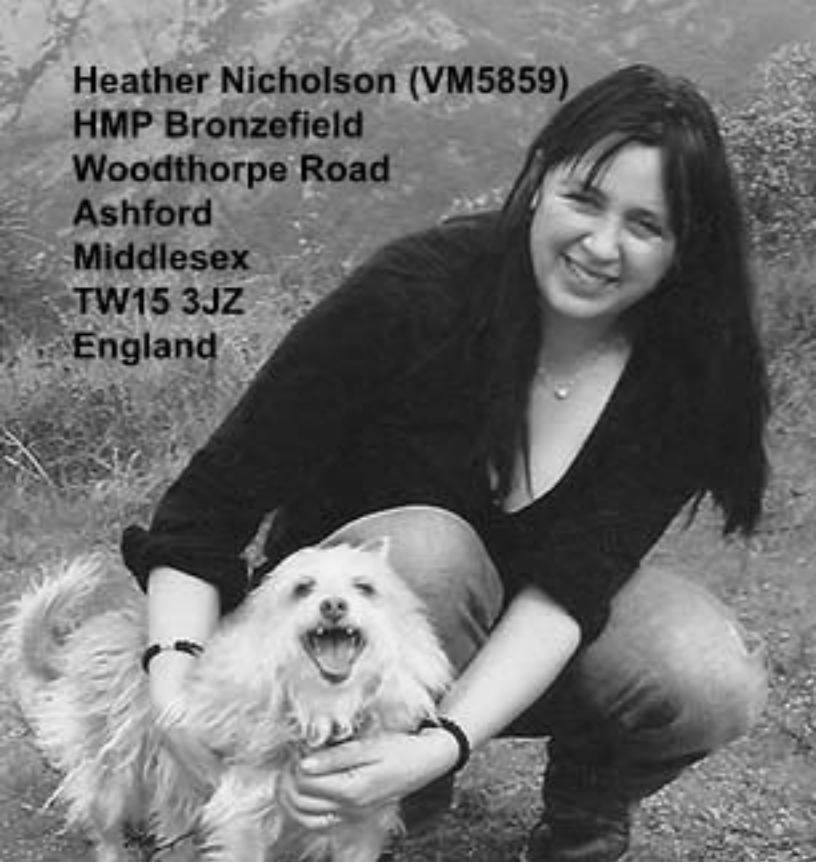
The New World Order is an Agenda that has been in the making for thousands of years and is no longer a theory. It's time to talk about it. In the not too distant future their intention is to have us all totally controlled by a centralised fascist dictatorship. Look at the state of the world now and imagine those who manipulate Bush & Blair, Obama, Rumsfeld and Gordon Brown in charge of everything and everyone alive. This is the plan, a one world government which ultimately includes microchips for us all. Still not sure if this shit should take your attention? Look around as they take away the rest of our freedoms, except for watching TV, shopping and praying. What if food labelling rules are abandoned to the extent that GM crops can be included in our diet without our knowledge? We won't be able to buy anything organic as control of our food lands in the hands of the pharma monsters, whose product kills. Fluoride was used by the Nazis to subdue concentration camp prisoners and its spread today is equally as sinister and unhelpful to our quest to awaken humanity. Buying food supplements and healing herbs is going to become illegal soon and pretty much all food will be irradiated as the norm. Are they trying to kill us? You better believe it. Research Codex Alimentarius which becomes active in December 2009, it could save your life. Get a feel for the moment take look up in the clear, calm sky early in the morning or early evening. Once upon a time there were just contrails marking the blue sky briefly before dissipating, now all over the world people are noticing chemtrails which don't dissipate instead they spread out to form a cloud of poison which fills the air we breath. We are being deliberately poisoned. This isn't just Capitalism out of control it's bigger than that but its days are numbered all the same.

There is a way out of this but first we have to know what we are dealing with and then share what we know with others. Animal rights activists have been at the forefront of this evolutionary process of outing humanity's darkest secrets but like everyone else we too have often been unable to see the wood for the trees. That is changing. Incredible change is coming and all it has to do with Obama and the like is that people are seeing it has nothing to do with them! We have the power.

Give the goggle box a rest and tune in to something honest and relevant. The TV is poisonous.

Keith Mann
~May 2009

Zeitgeist
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-594683847743189197
September Clues
http://www.thesocialservice.it/
Waking/2012 (10 mins)
http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=53979213
Loose Change 9/11
http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=1Yx9NRX37SM
Codex Alimentarius
http://www.healingquest.ca/blog/blog.php/bid/47
The Obama Deception
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAaQNACwaLw
Mars
http://www.enterprisemission.com
David Icke
http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=hSwJZoxr77c
Anannuki http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=kv2l93v4v0g
New World Order – The Final Solution
http://www.thecrowhouse.com/nwofs.html
Fight The New World Order With Global Non Compliance
http://uk.youtube.com/view_playlist?p=E92C39D8550CF8B1
Meet Your Meat
http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=VIjanhKqVC4
2012 Transformation (Radio)
http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=MnHsrZubbKM
2012 Awakening. Radio (Rik Clay)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR5NNo1AB9g ■



Dear Friend
I hope you don't mind this 'send-to-many' letter but as I have not done any mail throughout the trial. I have about 300 letters to reply to! Normal service will be resumed soon.

I am very grateful for your support. Words can never adequately express what it means to me and how much you have helped me. Your support for me means that you support the animals and that brings me some comfort.
I spoke up for the animals in court while I was being questioned for nearly four whole days. It was frustrating though and I came out feeling as if I had said about 1% of what I had intended to say. I am heartbroken as always for the animals still suffering at the hands of the cowards at HLS. It makes me cry to think that they (the animals) have no idea that anyone cares. It is frightening that they have so many powerful enemies.

I predicted that there would be no justice and that the media would be vile and untruthful and I was right. Any attack on us is an attack on the animals. I don't mind if the truth is reported as long as it is relevant but the news has been massively distorted, to say the least, (especially calling me a "mastermind"!) The press were only in court at the start and very end of the three-month trial so what they reported was fed to them by the police plus what they then made up (see Daily Mail!!!). Claims of impartiality are nonsense and the police and the press were practically snogging each other every time the jury left the courtroom. In over 4 000 pages of covert audio surveillance, not once did I say anything that amounted to blackmail or committing an illegal act. There was no evidence that I had ever made an "unwarranted demand with menaces" because I haven't. The judge agreed with me and said that I was quite right when I said that I hadn't sent nasty things through the post, damaged anyone's property, threatened anyone etc – nor was I accused of doing so. The crazy thing is that you don't have to do anything to be convicted of conspiracy but the sentences are long (even longer for us!!!). I have just been sentenced to I I years in prison. It is just insane – even if I had been guilty. The guards at court were angry and bemused by the 'guilty' verdicts and by the sentences. I could give you hundreds of examples of horrific crimes that have received lesser sentences than mine (and I have never hurt anyone in my life!). Here is just a small selection:

(i) A woman held down children to be raped ... 8 years.
(ii) Two men got drunk and punched a random passer-by to death ... 3 years.
(iii) Three men raped a 14 year-old girl and filmed it – then they poured caustic soda over her .. 9 years, 7 years and 5 years.
(iv) Anyone who tortures and kills an animal or is cruel in any way will never get more than 6 months.
(v) People who kill others in a hit-and-run sometimes get as little as 4 months.
(vi) A woman killed her baby .. 5 years
(vii) A man stamped on another man's head and left him in a wheelchair for life ... 7 years

I don't regret going to trial because my words are recorded for ever by the court, so if someone in fifty years' time does some research they will see that what was said in court bears little resemblance to what was reported. The media have shamelessly deceived the public. My biggest concern though was the fact that the worst photo that has ever been taken of me was on television all night long!!! I looked like something out of Silent Witness!

SHAG is a phenomenal, ground-breaking campaign that has shaken the vivisection industry to the core by totally legitimate means. I am not saying that unjust laws should not be broken – after all it is the 'law' that allows such suffering of animals. And that law is wrong. A few years ago Tony Blair had a secret meeting with GSK, Novartis and others who told him that unless he sorted out the animal rights activists they (the drug companies) would leave the UK. (Now that's BLACKMAIL!!) It was no coincidence that we were raided in May 2007 a matter of

03-26-09 - Los Angeles, CA
3 UCLA Vivisectors mailed needles dipped in rat poison
Justice Department

03-28-09 - Mexico
3 incendiary devices used on KFC and McDonald's
Mexico d.f.

04-05-09 - Colima, Mexico
30 TelMex phones sabotaged for destroying land and sponsoring bull-torturing events
Brigades for the Liberation of Colima

04-09-09 - Mexico
Pet Shop, Sea Animal Restaurant sabotaged
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-12-09 - Mexico
35 TelMex phones sabotaged and burned for destroying land sponsoring bull-torturing events
Luddites Against Domestication of Wild Nature

04-12-09 - Quebec, Canada
Bunnies liberated from a Canadian Petting Zoo
Animal Liberation Front

04-14-09 - Mexico
Cock fighting Rooster Breeder home painted
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-17-09 - Berkeley, CA
UC Berkeley Vivisector's home window smashed
Unnamed Activists

04-18-09 - Guadalara, Mexico
Mexican Pet Shop windows smashed
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-19-09 - Mexico
Egg Vendor set on fire with incendiary device
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-20-09 - Guadalara, Mexico
Cattle Transport set on fire with incendiary device
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-23-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Multiple shops and restaurant glued
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-23-09 - Mexico State
TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
Art as Crime, Crime as Art

04-23-09 - Cornelius, Oregon
pheasants and quail Liberated from CSL Game Farm
Unnamed Activists

04-26-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Over 20 TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
FLA (ALF Mexico)

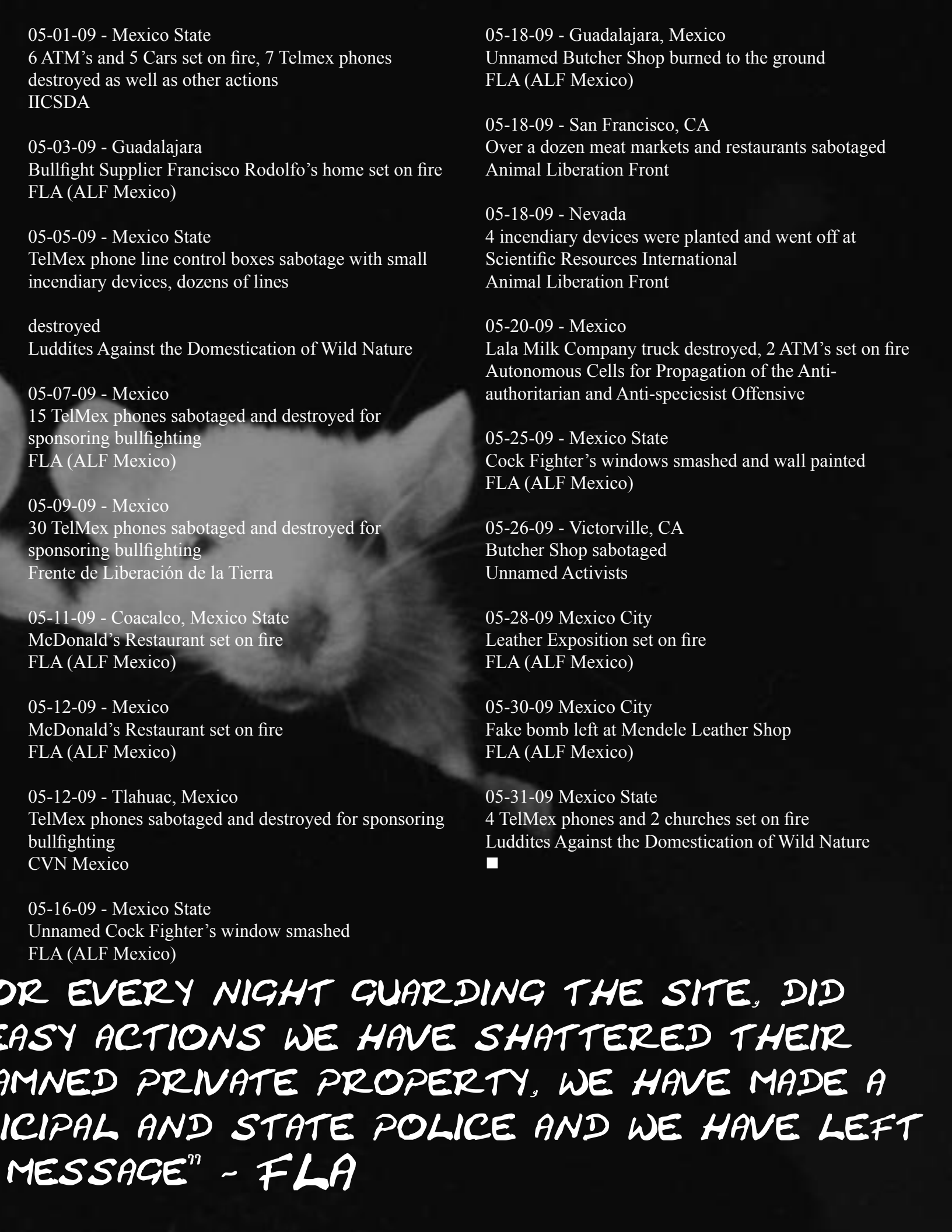
04-26-09 Guadalajara, Mexico
Fake bomb placed at Burger King
FLA (ALF Mexico)

04-28-09 Mexico
TelMex repair van set on fire with incendiary device
FLA (ALF Mexico) and Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

04-29-09 - Mexico
TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
Art as Crime, Crime as Art

04-29-09 Los Angeles, CA
UCLA Primate Vivisector's husband put under pressure at work with fake bombs
Animal Liberation Front

"...HAVING POLICE BASTARDS AT THEIR DOO
NOTHING FOR THEM; WITH ONE OF OUR E
SOCIAL PEACE, WE HAVE VIOLATED THEIR DA
MOCKERY OF THE 'FAST AND EFFECTIVE' MUN
OUR VINDICATING



05-01-09 - Mexico State
6 ATM's and 5 Cars set on fire, 7 Telmex phones destroyed as well as other actions
IICSDA

05-03-09 - Guadalajara
Bullfight Supplier Francisco Rodolfo's home set on fire
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-05-09 - Mexico State
TelMex phone line control boxes sabotage with small incendiary devices, dozens of lines

destroyed
Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

05-07-09 - Mexico
15 TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-09-09 - Mexico
30 TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
Frente de Liberación de la Tierra

05-11-09 - Coacalco, Mexico State
McDonald's Restaurant set on fire
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-12-09 - Mexico
McDonald's Restaurant set on fire
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-12-09 - Tlahuac, Mexico
TelMex phones sabotaged and destroyed for sponsoring bullfighting
CVN Mexico

05-16-09 - Mexico State
Unnamed Cock Fighter's window smashed
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-18-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Unnamed Butcher Shop burned to the ground
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-18-09 - San Francisco, CA
Over a dozen meat markets and restaurants sabotaged
Animal Liberation Front

05-18-09 - Nevada
4 incendiary devices were planted and went off at Scientific Resources International
Animal Liberation Front

05-20-09 - Mexico
Lala Milk Company truck destroyed, 2 ATM's set on fire
Autonomous Cells for Propagation of the Anti-authoritarian and Anti-speciesist Offensive

05-25-09 - Mexico State
Cock Fighter's windows smashed and wall painted
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-26-09 - Victorville, CA
Butcher Shop sabotaged
Unnamed Activists

05-28-09 Mexico City
Leather Exposition set on fire
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-30-09 Mexico City
Fake bomb left at Mendele Leather Shop
FLA (ALF Mexico)

05-31-09 Mexico State
4 TelMex phones and 2 churches set on fire
Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature
■

OR EVERY NIGHT GUARDING THE SITE, DID
EASY ACTIONS WE HAVE SHATTERED THEIR
AMNED PRIVATE PROPERTY, WE HAVE MADE A
ICIPAL AND STATE POLICE AND WE HAVE LEFT
MESSAGE" - FLA

weeks before Tony Blair quit.

My conscience is more than clear and I am extremely proud of everything that I have helped to achieve over the years. I am proud that I didn't sit back and cry in my armchair about how awful animal cruelty is but actually tried to change things and I made a stand against cruelty and oppression. I said in court to the jury that in time people would look back in horror at this trial and say "was it really legal to do that to animals and did they really put people in prison for trying to stop it?"

We were very unlucky to have such a cold, heartless, callous jury who clearly didn't care about people or animals. Some were seen giggling and and sniggering with the police while barristers were making their closing speeches. I will never understand how they could sit and watch puppies being punched in the face and then find any of US guilty.

When I gave evidence I asked the jury if they would object, complain or intervene if someone dragged a dog into court and started punching her and, if they would, then perhaps they should be stood in the dock with me! I wonder if they are all happy now in the knowledge that WE are in jail and not a single person in the courtroom (apart from us and some some supporters in the public gallery) would ever speak out or take action to stop the atrocities occurring inside HLS. Clearly no-one on the jury would have lifted a finger to help any animal (or person) in danger. Watching the News recently covering the New York aeroplane's emergency landing in the Hudson River, I thought it was wonderful to see the ferries rushing to help save the passengers, throwing life jackets – and then hearing the survivors speaking so emotionally about their frightening experience and expressing their deep gratitude to the brave pilot and the people who didn't hesitate to help them. We all hope and pray and sometimes expect to be saved when we are in danger.

It breaks my heart that so many people in the world and billions of animals can scream and struggle and plead, and no-one comes to their rescue. I can't bear it. To rescue is at the heart of my being and that is all that I have ever wanted to do. It is my motivation for campaigning against cruelty. All of you who have carried on the SHAG campaign (and others) – you have my utmost respect and admiration. Thank you.
The support for all of us in here from other prisoners and officers continues to be amazing. They too are bemused and angry at the verdict. They express to us their feelings of outrage at the injustice of the convictions and the sentences. I always said that I would not be devastated if found guilty (I'm not) and wouldn't be celebrating if found not guilty. The only losers are the animals at HLS and they are are still suffering. The sentences passed down to us were a victory for sadism, greed and cowardice. The compassionate and brave have lost their freedom .... for now !!!

I am enormously proud and in awe of the activists that I stood side by side with in court – Gregg, Natasha, Gavin, Dan Amos, Dan Wadham and Gerrah. They are all exceptional, selfless people and have all conducted themselves with great courage and dignity throughout this whole circus. I will never forget Gavin and Dan Wadham's evidence in the witness box. They were superb. Sometimes I feel like I am living on the wrong planet because for me it is natural to run to the aid of others and to speak out when something is wrong and here I am imprisoned for 11 years. It is ingrained in me to be kind, it always has been and always will be and it is baffling to me that others can be so cruel. I will never understand it as long as I live. All I can do is try to stop it.

The prison sniffer dogs have just been around and have totally made my day. I sat on the floor cuddling Sam (looks like my Laddie) and tears were pouring down my face. Those dogs filled me with such energy and strength and warmth and love. Please don't ever stop fighting for the abused animals.

My time in here hasn't been wasted because, in case you haven't heard, we have managed to have all the budgies and cockatiels here sent to a sanctuary and good homes. Bronzefield is now animal-free – as it should be. I am also doing my best to help as many troubled people in here as I can and am training to be a Listener (Samaritan). Also I shall be passing as many exams as I can and gaining diplomas in animal care/health and veterinary nursing and will come out of prison a greatly improved and more knowledgeable person.
I want to thank you again so much for your support. It means the world to me.

Heather xxxxxx
"Never, never be afraid to do what is right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way." (Martin Luther King)

Lots of love, Heather xxx

By Jason Miller
North American Animal Liberation Press Office

"The physiologist is not a man of the world, he is a scientist, a man caught and absorbed by a scientific idea that he pursues; he no longer hears the cries of the animals, no longer sees the flowing blood; he sees only his idea: organisms that hide from him problems that he wants to discover. He doesn't feel that he is in a horrible carnage; under the influence of a scientific idea, he pursues with delight a nervous filament inside stinking and livid flesh that for any other person would be an object of disgust and horror." **--Claude Bernard**

Vivisection, the anachronistic practice of condemning nonhuman animals to the sterility, isolation, and confinement of laboratory cages and subjecting them to slicing, jabbing, sticking, shocking, burning, poisoning, and addicting, bears a much closer resemblance to medieval torture than to 21st century scientific research. Fittingly, vivisection's history is rooted in medieval religious edicts that forbade the dissection of human cadavers.[1] And anthropocentrism is so deeply inculcated into our psyches that despite living in an "enlightened" age, we continue with our collective barbarism based on a church doctrine that held that rotting human corpses were more sacred than living, breathing sentient beings.

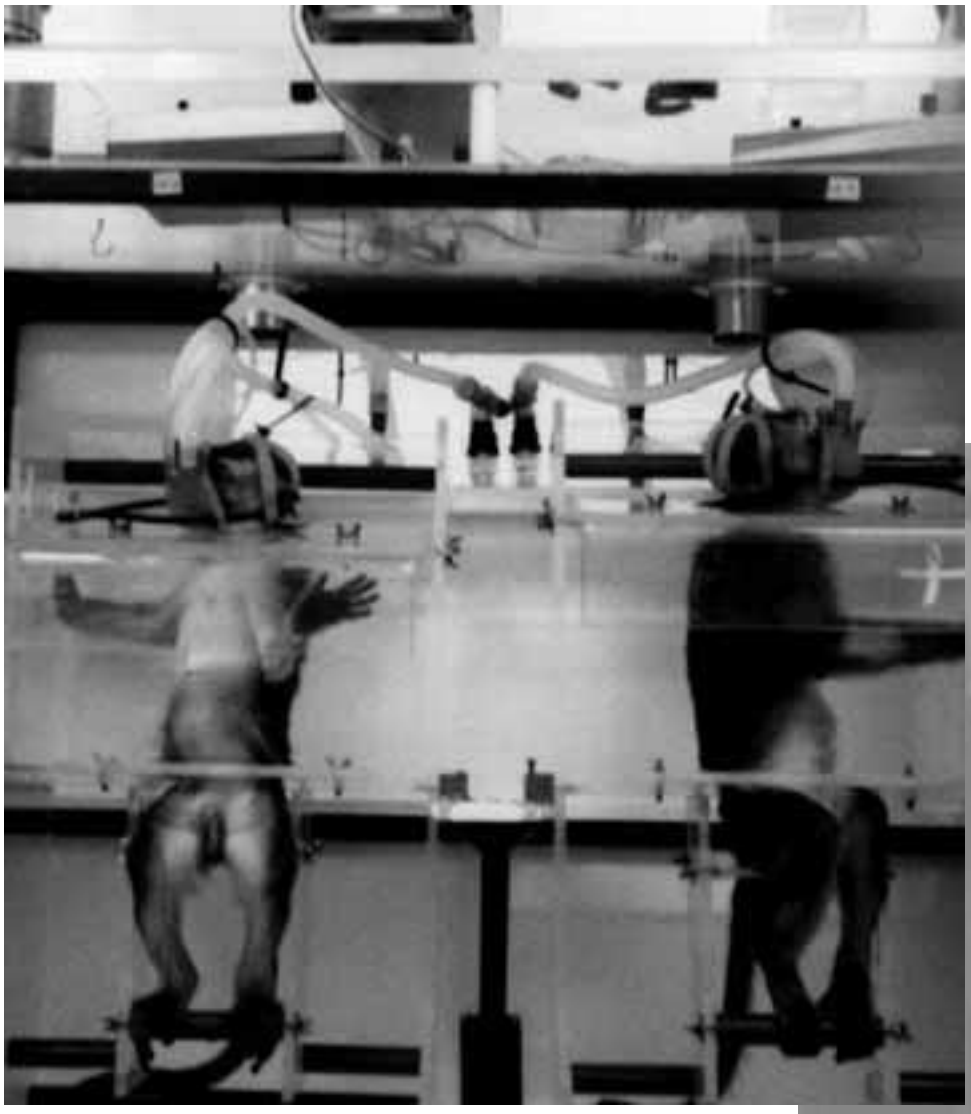
Speaking of church doctrine, Claude Bernard, the "Father of Physiology," whose principal means of investigation was vivisection, received a Jesuit education as he grew up in 19th century France.[2] Bernard was obsessed with the notion that all meaningful scientific advances, particularly those in medicine, could only come from the laboratory. "As medical historian Brandon Reines put it: The net effect of Bernard's publications on the pancreas was to begin to canonize the vivisectional element of his experimental medicine at the expense of clinical analysis. His later pedagogic works led to further diminution in the rhetorical impact of clinical studies, and corresponding augmentation of the drama of already alluring animal experiments."[3]

And Bernard's laboratory was a house of horrors for nonhuman animals, rife with grotesqueries and pain beyond imagination, including ovens that roasted his victims alive.[4] Unfortunately, Bernard's influence remains potent to this day, leading many scientists to rely almost exclusively on vivisection--with virtually no emphasis on other means of research.

Like the primitive religious and scientific dogma that spawned it, vivisection is a relic of the past that has outlived its usefulness, if it ever had any. From an animal liberationist's standpoint there are no moral justifications for tormenting and murdering nonhuman animals to "advance science," but even when considered from an intelligent hardened speciesist's perspective, vivisection is a detrimental practice, for it is a tremendous waste of time, money and effort, and it is more of a threat to human health than it is a safeguard.

Because of the many significant anatomical, physiological, genetic, and behavioral differences between species (differences Bernard dismissed in his zeal to demonstrate that "all living matter obeys the same physiological laws"),[4] tests performed on nonhuman animals are only 5% to 25% accurate in terms of predicting the impact the tested drug or treatment will have on humans[5] and a 1994 study that appeared in the SCRIP report determined that only 6 of 114 substances that were toxic to humans were also toxic to nonhuman animals.[6] Nonhuman animals are extremely poor correlates for people. According to Pro Anima of France, over a million people die prematurely in the EU each year from toxic substances introduced into their food or environment that were animal tested and deemed safe.[7]

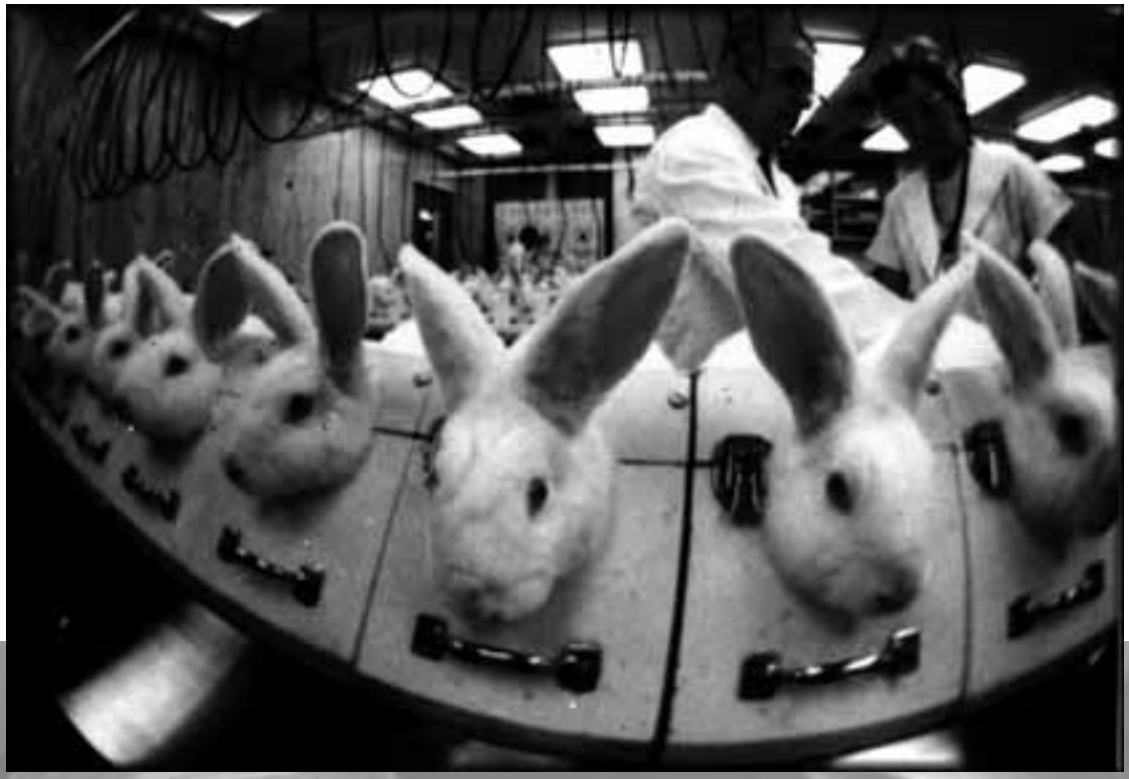
Millions of nonhuman animals are vivisected every year to ensure our "safety" when we take prescription drugs. Just how safe are we? Consider that adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are the fourth leading cause of death, 15% of hospital admissions are related to ADRs, prescription drugs kill over 100,000 people every year (more than street drugs), and ADRs cost us over $130 billion in medical expenses every year.[8]



In December of 2003, Dr. Allen Roses, worldwide vice-president of genetics for GlaxoSmithKline, the UK's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer, admitted the severe limitations of the prescription drugs for which so many nonhuman animals are sacrificed when he stated, "The vast majority of drugs - more than 90 per cent - only work in 30 or 50 per cent of the people," Dr Roses said. "I wouldn't say that most drugs don't work. I would say that most drugs work in 30 to 50 per cent of people. Drugs out there on the market work, but they don't work in everybody."[9]

For a host of other examples (too numerous to cite in this essay) that reveal the antiquated and crude nature of the results derived from vivisection, see the 2007 report called "Do No Harm" that was prepared by the AD-AV Society of British Columbia in September of 2007.[10]
Despite its demonstrably abysmal results and despite exciting breakthroughs in genetics and other areas of science, and the rapid development of technologies that make vivisection antiquated and obsolete, it persists, not because it brings "truth," but rather because it is highly profitable up and down throughout the long chain of "research." There is tremendous peer-pressure and academic inertia to continue confining and torturing other sentient beings without their consent for several reasons, but aside from the facts that vivisection is a deeply entrenched orthodoxy which is handed down from one generation of researchers to the next and that nonhuman animal research is easily published (no small incentive to practice it in the 'publish or perish' environments of universities), vivisection generates and protects income. Vivisection continues to be highly regarded and heavily promoted within the mainstream medical and scientific communities, as many universities have come to depend mightily upon the multi-million dollar grants they receive to fund nonhuman animal research, even that which is frivolous or redundant.
Big Pharma, one of the largest supporters and beneficiaries of nonhuman animal research, uses its significant influence—an influence derived from deep pockets and even deeper incestuous relationships with legislators, government regulators, peer-reviewed medical journals, publicly funded institutions, and doctors[11]—to sustain the lie that it would be impossible to innovate and market new prescription drugs without vivisection. Poison Pill, a book by Tom Nesi, provides an industry insider's deconstruction of how Merck was able to bring Vioxx, a drug that has potentially killed tens of thousands of people, to market.[12] To these leviathan pharmaceutical corporations, vivisection's barbarity and inefficacy are irrelevant. To ensure the uninterrupted flow of their immense profits, they need vivisection to accelerate the

drug approval process, to give consumers the illusion of safety, and to shield themselves from tort liability.[13]



And let's not forget the host of ancillary business that reaps handsome profits from the vivisection industry. These include companies that breed (or capture) and sell nonhuman animal research subjects to vivsectors,[14] companies that perform vivisection as a form of outsourcing,[15] cage manufacturers, scientific equipment makers, and many others.

Evolutionary biology predicts—and modern-day molecular biology confirms—that very small differences between species, on the genetic level, invalidate the historical notion that experiments on animals can lead to cures and treatments for human disease. --Ray Greek, MD
Once we regain our moral bearings, overcome dogma and money, and banish vivisection to the dust-bin of history, how will we advance our medical knowledge and determine that new medical therapies, drugs, and consumer products are reasonably safe?

There are myriad ways, and while the US has shown tremendous resistance to shedding the vivisection paradigm (with a Congressionally-commissioned panel only approving four out of 185 potential alternatives to nonhuman animal testing), we can look to Europe, which has approved 34 alternatives and is developing 170 more.[16]

Were we to end the heinous practice of vivisection today, medical and biological sciences would continue to advance through clinical and epidemiological studies, which linked smoking and lung cancer—after years of vivisection failed to demonstrate the cause and effect relationship; autopsies, biopsies, and post-mortem studies, which have aided researchers tremendously in identifying and understanding many diseases; post-marketing studies of drug side effects; imaging scans, which have enabled important human anatomical and physiological discoveries; in vitro cell and tissue culture tests; computer models, which can be used to test potential new drugs; and chromatography and spectroscopy.[17]

And from the general, we move to some specific examples:
In February of 2008, the NIH and the EPA began a five year project to reduce the use of nonhuman animals in toxicity tests. Their collaborative efforts will employ robotic technology and in vitro testing techniques in lieu of vivisection.[18]

Two biochips, called Metachip and Datachip, were developed in 2007. Each contains human enzymes or cells and can be used to predict how a human body will respond to a drug.[19]

Within the last few months, bioengineers at Brown University successfully created "three-dimensional freestanding cellular structures from 'building blocks' of living cells." Their ultimate goal is to create "tissue models" to replicate human organs.[20]

At MIT, biological engineer Linda Griffith is working toward a different means of simulating human organs. Placing a computer chip in human liver tissue, she has given scientists a powerful way to study liver interaction with drugs and chemicals.[21]

In December of 2008, Professor Christine Mummery of Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands addressed the British Pharmacological Society and explained how researchers could cultivate human heart cells from embryonic stem cells, testing on them in place of nonhuman animals.[22]

These are but a few of many options researchers can choose in place of nonhuman animal testing. Yet despite having numerous tools at its disposal, and despite the fact that confining and tormenting other sentient beings is a moral abomination, the scientific community, driven by dogma, money, and the animal industrial complex, clings to vivisection with a tenacious grasp.

How long will we allow the ghost of Claude Bernard to continue practicing his sadism and flawed science? How long will we continue to vivisect?

Jason Miller is a Press Officer for the North American Animal Liberation Press Office. You can reach him at jason@animalliberationpressoffice.org

[1] http://www.mercyforanimals.org/vivisection.asp
[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Bernard
[3] http://www.hughlafollette.com/papers/BERNARD.HTM
[4] http://www.animalvoices.org/adav/1.essays.bernard.html
[5] http://www.shac.net/science/intro.html
[6] http://www.animalaid.org.uk/h/n/CAMPAIGNS/experiments/ALL/730/
[7] http://www.animalaid.org.uk/images/pdf/vivisection.pdf
[8] http://www.navs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ain_sci_drugdev
[9] http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/glaxo-chief-our-drugs-do-not-work-on-most-patients-575942.html
[10] http://www.bcconversationonhealth.ca/media/AD-AV_Submission.pdf
[11] http://www.thenation.com/doc/20020805/newman20020725
[12] http://www.tomnesi.org/press.htm
[13] http://www.animalliberationfront.com/Philosophy/Animal%20Testing/Industry_Science/Why%20the%20FDA%20Requires%20Animal%20Testing.html
[14] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_River_Laboratories
[15] http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Covance_Laboratories
[16] http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/11/AR2008041103733.html?hpid=topnews&sub=new
[17] http://www.neavs.org/betterscience/bettersci_benefits_of_using_nonanimal_tests_biomedical_research.htm
[18] http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=feds-agree-to-toxicity-test&page=2
[19] ibid
[20] http://www.boston.com/business/healthcare/articles/2009/03/30/are_the_lab_rats_days_numbered/?page=1
[21] ibid

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North American Animal Liberation Press Office
6320 Canoga Avenue #1500
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"Until you end your experimentation on primates, we'll be in your life forever watching, waiting and then doing to you exactly what you do to them."
- Justice Department

"Nobody will be able to stop our rebel heart, though they lock us up, torture us, or kill us, the fight will continue just below the surface"
- ALF México

"We are not interested in 'welfarist' reforms for bigger cages and longer chains or menial legislation that only reinforces the status of non-humyn animals as 'property'. This is why we take direct action."
- Anonymous

"The concept of animals existing as "resources" is utterly despicable, and we vow to do all in our power to run businesses like these into the ground."
- Animal Liberation Front

"We have to organize and become involved in well coordinated action which will involve any means necessary to bring about complete elimination of the conditions that exist ..... It takes action to get action." - Malcolm X

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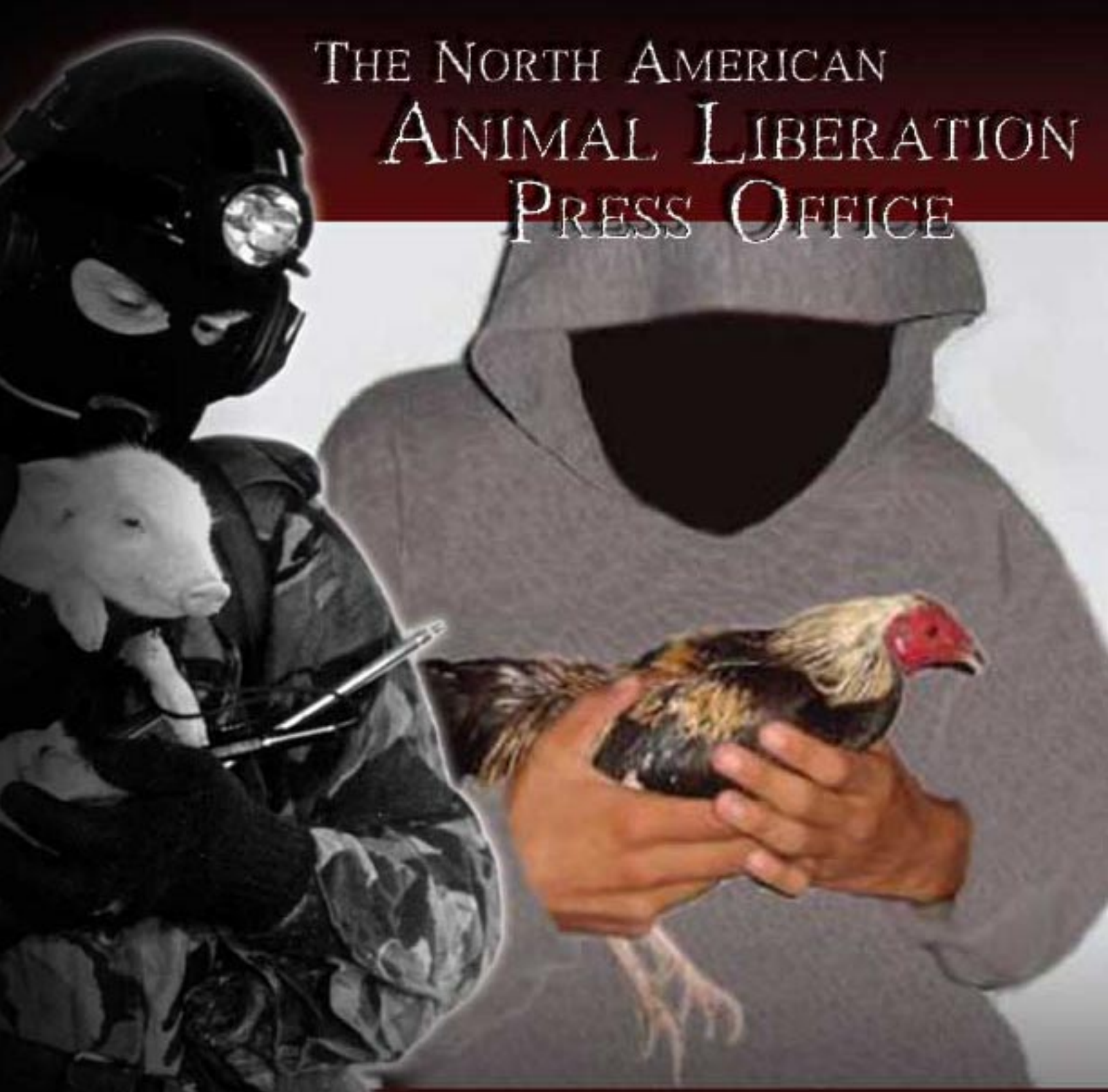
/350

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office



Inside: Articles from Rick Bogle, Jason Miller, and all the latest actions

Limited Edition Periodical

vol.3

North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Press Office Directive:

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded in 2004 to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit and research. Within these conditions, those in the underground, working for animal liberation, often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent", with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously and otherwise inconsequentially inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals. In addition to reporting the courageous and necessary actions of the underground, NAALPO's second objective is to provide the reader with thought-provoking pieces that will serve as tools to the individual and to the future of the Animal Liberation Movement.

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Disclaimer: The Animal Liberation Press Officers do not engage in illegal activities, nor do they know any individuals who do. Neither does this website or the Press Office indend to encourage illegal actions. Rather, the Press Office receives and posts communiqués from anonymous parties and provides comment to the media.

Since there isn't a way to contact individuals working underground (their identity is not known to anyone in the aboveground movement), the use of communiqués is one way the underground communicates with the public at large. Communiqués can be sent directly to anyone including the press, underground support groups, aboveground animal rights groups, etc.

Because the individuals who engage in underground actions cannot reveal their identities to anyone, a North American Animal Liberation Press Office has been created to try to answer some of the questions as to why these actions may have been carried out, and to place the actions in a historical and philosophical context. Since we do not engage in illegal activities ourselves, we do not know the details of these actions, but we can try to the best of our ability to give you a better understanding of why a particular action may have been carried out.

"By and large students are taught that it is ethically acceptable to perpetrate, in the name of science, what from the point of view of the animals would certainly qualify as torture. By the time [the students] arrive in the labs they have been programmed to accept the suffering around them." Jane Goodall

As the October 2009 issue of the Newsletter goes to press, we are experiencing an unprecedented series of events in the battle against animal abuse in experimental laboratories, otherwise known as vivisection. After coordinated campaigns against terroristic organizations and perpetrators at Huntington Life Sciences (who torture and kill 500 animals every day testing household products, pharmaceuticals and other products) and primate vivisection at University of California hell-holes, we now find those who profit from animal suffering in desperate straights.

A full-page advertisement by UCLA in the Sunday Los Angeles Times newspaper, trotting out the usual lies and deception that props up the continued torture of non-human animals in laboratories, signals the beginning of the end for those illicit researchers like David Jentsch and Dario Ringach, who are used to hiding behind thick basement walls and electronic locks to avoid public scrutiny.

Nearly simultaneously, the nationwide appearance of billboards touting the use of animal experimentation to cure leprosy, of all things, serves only to broadcast the fear and reticence of the truly evil men and women who mutilate, dissect, torture and murder our non-human brethren in their unrelenting desire to publish another paper, get another grant, and increase their monthly income.

Recently both Jentsch and Ringach refused an invitation by CNN to debate medical doctors on the ethics and utility of animal experimentation. They refused, as every single one of their colleagues has repeatedly refused to publicly debate their stance on hurting animals, because they

look ridiculous every time they try to justify themselves. Just as they look ridiculous defending their colleagues who carried out the Tuskegee, Alabama experiments that withheld penicillin treatment from 399 black men infected with syphilis; the intentional infection of mentally retarded children with hepatitis-B by doctors at Willowbrook State Hospital in Staten Island; and government-directed radiation experiments on unwitting Americans to assess the effect of radioactivity on the human body.

The struggle against vivisection, the torture and killing of non-human animals allegedly for the benefit of humans, has been waged for well over 100 years, beginning in late 19th-century England. Today, right here, right now, we are witnessing the final throes of an industry built and maintained on the suffering of the innocent; the nefarious deeds of perverted men and women in white coats will not tolerate the light of public inspection. As philosopher Steven Best wrote recently, "every time an activist penetrates the thick walls that shield and protect vivisectors from scrutiny or accountability, the same habitual practices of neglect and cruelty are revealed, refuting the lies and obfuscating rhetoric of "welfare" and the obfuscation that government, oversight committees, and (in the US) the Animal Welfare Act ensure that scientists provide "care" for their coerced captives."

For the German Nazis who killed Jews experimenting on them during WW-II, publishing their findings on hypothermia in the same medical journals available today, for the perverts like Jentsch, Ringach, Edythe London and Lynn Fairbanks at UCLA, for the misanthropes at HLS who slap beagle puppies and dissect awake monkeys, there awaits a special place in hell.

May they get there post-haste. ■

David Jentsch UCLA Vivisector

Hug a Thug

BY
RICK BOGLE

Have you heard of the advocacy group NAMBLA? The North American Man/Boy Love Association advocates (or advocated, they seem to be more or less defunct) the lowering of the age of consent in sexual relationships. As their name makes clear, they want to change the law to make it legal for adult men to have sex with young boys. They claim to believe that an eight-or nine-year-old boy is old enough to give his informed consent to be buggered. And like the American Civil Liberties Union, I too believe that they have the right to advocate this change to the law. But I don't think such a change should be enacted, and I suspect most of the ACLU attorneys who make arguments in favor of free speech, no matter how outrageous, don't either.

NAMBLA reminds me of the relatively new group advocating for their right to torture animals. Pro-Test is the monsters' response to the mob's demand that they stop their dark and evil experiments. Like all mobs that have marched to monsters' lairs, torches and pitchforks in hand, the mob yelling for them to leave the animals alone isn't above setting fire to their cars and homes. This has been particularly true in Los Angeles where monsters at the University of California Los Angeles have been harried by their critics.

As a consequence, vivisectors at UCLA banded together and started a chapter of Pro-Test, a group that was founded in 2006, in Oxford, England, by a sixteen-year-old boy named Laurie Pycroft. Vivisectors at Oxford were ecstatic that (finally!) a teenager was supporting them and lifted him to their shoulders and marched through town shouting "Hurrah!" The boy was quickly sanctified by the monsters and anointed the industry's moral compass.

UCLA's new Pro-Test leader, David Jentsch (pronounced "yench" nearly rhymes with Grinch, and they have the same eyebrows), had been targeted in March 2009. His Volvo was parked next to his house when a firebomb destroyed it very early in the morning.

According to the LA Times, Jentsch claims that UCLA's Pro-Test was started to support research that uses animals "in what he calls a humane, carefully regulated way." At a UCLA lab, he administers methamphetamine to about two dozen monkeys and then withdraws them from it; about half a dozen are killed each year for postmortems. He contended that the animals suffer no pain from the work.

"The pain in addiction is when you lose your relationships, lose your children, lose your job, when your health goes down. Animals don't suffer those things," [Jentsch] said. "They suffer none of the psychosocial pain that is what addiction is all about." [Animals don't suffer loss of children or decline of health?] Larry Gordon. "UCLA professor stands up to violent animal rights activists." Los Angeles Times, April 13, 2009.

Nowhere in the many articles covering Pro-Test's first rally, held on April 22, 2009, is there much detail about what this grinch actually does to animals. The blurb about methamphetamine is odd given that he has apparently never published a paper on that particular drug. (A colleague of mine has pointed out that he has a current NIH grant (through 2010) titled Neurochemical Determinants of Ma-induced Cognitive Deficits, And that at least one report mentions Jentsch and methamphetamine.) He has published occasional papers describing his injections of nicotine, cocaine, THC (the active compound in marijuana), and a couple

esoteric chemicals into rats and monkeys, but so far, not one scientific paper mentioning methamphetamine. Of his approximately 55 published papers, about one third describe his use of phencyclidine, or PCP, to induce schizophrenia-like mental duress in these animals.

He has been injecting PCP into monkeys and rats almost continuously since about 1997. In one 1997 paper, he cited others' research from 1962, and wrote that: "PCP and the PCP analog ketamine induce schizophreniform symptoms in normal humans and cause profound worsening of symptoms in schizophrenics." Jentsch JD, Elsworth JD, Redmond DE Jr, Roth RH. Phencyclidine increases forebrain monoamine metabolism in rats and monkeys: modulation by the isomers of HA966. Journal of Neuroscience. 1997.

In a paper from 2008, Jentsch explains:
Young adult male or female St Kitts green (vervet) monkeys (Chlorocebus aethiops sabaeus) at the St Kitts Biomedical Research Foundation (St Kitts, West Indies) were used. As the subjects were feral monkeys, their exact age was not known. These studies were approved by the relevant institutional animal care and use committee. Monkeys, housed individually in squeeze-cages, were injected with PCP twice daily for 14 days, as described before (Jentsch et al, 1997).… John D Elsworth, J David Jentsch, Bret A Morrow, D Eugene Redmond Jr and Robert H Roth. Clozapine Normalizes Prefrontal Cortex Dopamine Transmission in Monkeys Subchronically Exposed to Phencyclidine Neuropsychopharmacology. 2008.
Let's try to put Jentsch's PCP injections into context and imagine the situation from the monkeys' perspective. First, PCP is almost never injected. It is almost always smoked – sprinkled on tobacco or marijuana, and only very occasionally, snorted like cocaine. But it is almost never injected.

Second, nearly everyone who uses PCP knows they're using PCP.

Third, the commonly reported recreational dose of PCP is 0.01-0.02 mg/kg.

Jentsch is injecting 15 to 30 times (0.3 mg/kg) the normal recreational dose of PCP into animals, ripped from their families, trapped in cages and being manhandled, who then start having unending nightmarish hallucinations for reasons they can't imagine. And this goes on for two weeks, prior to them being killed.

And this grinch does this, he claims, because the biochemical actions of a drug (clozapine) that has been used since the mid 1970s to treat schizophrenia aren't well understood.

And then, he has the audacity to claim that people who see him for what he is — a monster of the worst sort — should stop trying to make him and his ilk stop their monstrous behavior.

Pro-Test is interesting because it is so very unusual for monsters to stand up in public and declare that the general public should countenance their monstrous behavior. This is what makes Vice President Dick Chaney's public defense of torture such an oddity.

At UCLA, the Pro-Test "Founding Members" are:

- J. David Jentsch, UCLA Professor, Psychology
- Dario Ringach, UCLA Professor, Neurobiology and Psychology
- Tom Holder, Speaking of Research, Founder and Pro-Test (UK) Spokesman "There is round-the-clock treatment, there are people, veterinarians in research labs whose only job is to make sure that animals are treated well and are essentially happy in their lives."
- Lynn Fairbanks, UCLA Professor, Psychiatry
- Kathy Wadsworth, UCLA Associate Director-Animal Subjects Research
- Megan Wyeth, UCLA Graduate Student, Neurobiology
- Donald Kalar, UCLA Graduate Student, Psychology

Dario Ringach may be one of only two vivisectors in the world to have even temporarily capitulated to anti-cruelty activists due to harassment. (The other was Michael Podell*) From the LA Times:

[Then acting Chancellor] Abrams said the Bel-Air incident, [in which an "incendiary device" that did not ignite was left at Lynn Fairbanks' front door] along with the decision this month by neurobiology professor Dario Ringach to stop his primate research after several years of harassment and threats to his family, led to the announcement [of a $60,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those who left the device.] Abrams said he was deeply saddened by Ringach's decision, describing him as a promising young professor, doing significant – and the chancellor emphasized, legal – research.

Ringach, whose work involved studies of the brain and the ways it receives information from the retina, sent an e-mail Aug. 4 [2006] to the Animal Liberation Press Office.
Posted on the website, the e-mail reads, in part: "You win. Effective immediately, I am no longer doing animal research."

"Studies of the brain and the ways it receives information from the retina." That's not much detail. How can one form a thoughtful opinion without the details of what he's doing? I guess you could simply say that no matter what he's doing, since he's doing it only to animals, that you support it, because you support anything scientific. I don't think humans could hold such a position. That's the position of a monster; a human would want to have at least some knowledge of the specifics before taking sides.

Ringach uses monkeys and cats. Once they are prepared by him, they are used for at least a few days before they are killed or die. It isn't clear from his papers whether they are always killed or just die. His experiments would look quite gruesome if we could watch them, but the monkeys and cats are reportedly anesthetized throughout the experiments. He puts electrodes in their brains, puts the animals in a metal frame, and then puts simple images (usually groups of dots or gratings) in front of their eyes, and then records the output from the electrodes in their brain. If the monkeys and cats are genuinely unconscious, then at least he isn't causing them much discomfort aside from being raised in an environmentally and socially deprived laboratory setting. So, as far as Ringach's current experiments are concerned, the moral question is whether he should be killing monkeys and cats in order to generate a mathematical approximation of the neuronal response to visual stimuli. He isn't working on finding a cure for some widespread and hideous disease, his research is among the most arcane, much like the Little Angel of St. Louis.

Lynn Fairbanks, another of the Pro-test founders, says that:

[S]trong similarities to humans make [monkeys] particularly valuable for understanding complex behavioral traits and brain structure and function… Like humans, NHPs [nonhuman primates] experience a prolonged period of postnatal development, together with strong family ties and complex social relationships. Furthermore, most features of human behavior have recognizable counterparts in NHPs, enabling the examination of traits such as anxiety and impulsivity, which are central components of human behavioral disorders. Freimer NB, Service SK, Ophoff RA, Jasinska AJ, McKee K, Villeneuve A, Belisle A, Bailey JN, Breidenthal SE, Jorgensen MJ, Mann JJ, Cantor RM,

Dewar K, Fairbanks LA. A quantitative trait locus for variation in dopamine metabolism mapped in a primate model using reference sequences from related species. Proceeding of the National Academy of Science USA. 2007.

And this makes hers and her cohorts' experiments all the more monstrous. We can see ourselves in the monkeys. When people who are upset with this cruelty point this out, the vivisectors laugh and say their critics are being inappropriately anthropomorphic; but then they say to each other, 'look, these animals are just like us, let's hurt them in sundry ways'.

Here, she explains a few of the ways she does this:

For this study, METH [methamphetamine] was administered to adult male vervet monkeys living in social groups containing a full range of different age/sex animals. The social housing was considered a critical component of the study design because it allowed for behavioral assessments of drug-related changes in affiliative and agonistic behaviors. Such measurements are highly relevant for behavioral models of the human condition, but are not possible to obtain in individually housed animals….

Study 1: METH Pharmacokinetics Study
Subjects METH-naive male animals (age range: 5–7 years; n=4) that were not included in the long-term METH study were transferred to UCLA and housed in individual cages for the duration of the study. The animals were habituated to sitting in a customized primate chair for 2 weeks before the pharmacokinetics study.

METH administration and experimental design
On the study day, the animal was placed in the chair and a catheter was inserted in the tail vein 30 min before injection of methamphetamine …Blood samples were obtained at 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2, and 4 h. The animal was returned to its cage and blood samples were obtained at 6, 8, 10, 12, and 24 h from either the tail or femoral vein while temporarily restrained…

Pharmacokinetic parameters for the human METH exposure were obtained from prior human METH studies (Cook et al, 1993.)

Study 2: Escalating Dose-METH Exposure
Subjects and housing The focal subjects in this study were 12 adult male vervet monkeys (age range 6.9–9.9

years, weight range 6.8–8.7 kg) that were housed in three outdoor social groups at the joint UCLA/VA Vervet Research Colony. …

The social groups were formed and allowed to habituate for approximately 3 months before study initiation. After focal subjects were randomly assigned to a group, they were randomly designated as either METH or Control subjects…[There were] two METH and two Control focal subjects in each of three social groups concurrently. Each group also consisted of 3–4 adult females, 2–7 juveniles, and 0–3 infants, with no other adult males present throughout the study. One METH subject died of an unknown illness during the study. There was no evidence that experimental manipulation caused this death. Subjects were always housed within their social groups except during experimental manipulations….

Experimental design
The study took place over a 1-year period. An initial 3-month habituation was followed by a 4-week pretest period, 8 Dose periods of 4–5 weeks each, and a 3-week abstinence period.

~continued on page 10

10-19-09 - Mexico City
Burger King burned down
Milicia Incendiaria por la Liberación Animal (M.I.L.A)

10-19-09 - Utah
Bees liberated & honey destroyed
The Bee Liberation Front

10-11-09 -Vancouver Canada
Fur shop owner Megan Halpren's house painted

10-09-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Museo de Caza Benito Albarrán / Taxidermy display burned down
Frente de Liberacion Animal

09-28-09 - Aguascalientes, Mexico
5 Horses liberated from horse farm

09-23-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
HLS customer Novartis bombed
Frente de Liberacion Animal

09-19-09 - Colima, Mexico
7 meat markets and 5 poultry shops glued, 2 left burning message
Espina de Rabia (Thorn of Rage)

09-18-09 - Mexica
Rooster liberated
Efecto Mariposa (Butterfly Effect)

09-13-09 - Mexico City
MaxMara fur store hit with explosive
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

09-07-09 - Miami Beach, FL
Brooke Block, President of Worldwide Primates, Inc
Car and house painted and vandalized
Animal Liberation Front

09-07-09 - Colima, Mexico
2 meat markets and a fish market glued and painted
5 TelMex phone booths destroyed
Efecto Mariposa (Butterfly Effect)

09-06-09 - Denver, CO
McDonald's and manager's cars windows smashed
Animal Liberation Front

09-04-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Pet shop painted and windows smashed
Animal Liberation Front

09-01-09 - Mexico
August's list from FLA cell
5th - Fur shop previously attacked was again glued.
8th - Chicken restaurant loses money by not being able to open the business for hours.
10th - Homemade bomb detonated in the windows of a restaurant that sells the corpses of rabbits.
13th - Glued rotisserie stops selling dead animals for several hours.
17th - Gate of the municipal dairy sealed; the following day, police intervened to try to open the business and guard it.
18th - Acid bomb with marbles inside was detonated in the night at the entrance of a KFC as the employees, the manager and the security officer were still inside.
24th - Entrances, shutters and walls of a meat company were stained with red paint.
28th - A Burger King previously attacked by the FLA went bankrupt and stopped selling their products full of pain and suffering.

09-02-09 - USA
Multiple trapping websites cyber attacked
Animal Liberation Front

08-30-09 - Mexico State
HLS Customer Unilever products sabotaged
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-29-09 - Mexico State
HLS Customer Novartis products sabotaged
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-26-09 - North America
Fur farms exposed
Fur Farm Intelligence Unit

08-21-09 - Mexico City
HLS Customer Novartis executive's car destroyed
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-20-09 - Mexico
Serious warning sent to HLS Customer Novartis
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-18-09 - Mexico
Unnamed Fur/Leather Shop fire bombed
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-15-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Pet store painted, windows smashed
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-13-09 - Denver, CO
McDonald's window smashed
Animal Liberation Front

08-09-09 - Mexico State
Canaries liberated
Frente de Liberación Animal
Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN)

08-07-09 - Mexico State
Fur shop glued and painted
Frente de Liberación Animal (FLA)

08-05-09 - Bach, Austria
Daniel Vasella, Novartis CEO's hunting home burned down
MFAH Austria

08-02-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Roosters liberated from cock fighter
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-31-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Carnitas Uruapan Meat Shop burned down
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-29-09 - Mexico State
Monthy report from FLA cell
5th: Animal liberation graffiti painted in three different areas of Mexico State.
10th: Slogans against animal exploitation painted at meat-processing business.
17th: Animal liberation graffiti painted on walls in Mexico State.
27th: Religious chapel and dairy shop heavily painted.
FLA México and individual vegetarians and vegans

07-27-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Slaughter house complex burned down
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-26-09 - León, Guanajuato, Mexico
Animal transport trucks burned in León and Guanajuato

07-25-09 - SoCal
Trader Joe's products sabotaged
Happy 'green' meat is still murder

07-23-09 - Tlalpan Borough, Mexico
Dairy shop burned down
Revuelta Verdinegra (Green and Black Return)

07-21-09 - Torrance, CA
HLS supplier Phenomenex sent warning, grounds sabotaged
Animal Liberation Front

07-21-09 - Leon, Mexico
Animal transport truck set on fire
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-18-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
2 fur/leather shops burned to the ground
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-17-09 - Mexico State
6 locations including pet shop glued again
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-17-09 - Leon, Mexico
5 meat markets and poultry shop glued
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-15-09 - Leon, Mexico
2 meat markets glued
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-12-09 - SoCal
3 vehicles and home of a UC Irvine vivisector painted/stripped
Animal Liberation Front

07-12-09 - Mexico State
KFC warehouse set on fire
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-10-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
5 TelMex phones destroyed
Environmentalist combatants for the liberation of the earth

07-9-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Bullfighting Museum set on fire
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-08-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
6 meat markets glued and painted
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-08-09 - Mexico
TelMex phones destroyed / pet shop painted
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-05-09 - Mexico State
KFC and pet shop glued
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-03-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
5 TelMex phones and 5 meat market electric meters destroyed
Frente de Liberación Animal

07-02-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
Animal exploitation truck set on fire
Frente de Liberación Animal

06-26-09 - Marshall, MN
Locks glued of Ralco Nutrition, KFC, and Chicken Connection
Marshall Animal Defense

06-26-09 - Mexico City Area
Slaughterhouse pain bombed and TelMex phone cabinet set on fire

06-24-09 - Guadalajara, Mexico
20 birds liberated from Agua Azul Aviary Park
FLA-Comando Verde Negro

06-22-09 - Mexico
Animal liberation graffiti
Vandalismo Vegano (VV)

06-20-09 - Mexico State
Canary liberation
Frente de Liberación Animal
Comando Verde Negro

06-18-09 - Mexico
HLS Customer Novartis glued and painted
Frente de Liberación Animal

06-17-09 - Tlalpan borough, Mexico
Meat Shops, Church, TelMex; smashed, glued, painted, destroyed
Subversive Front for Global Liberation

06-16-09 - Chimalhuacan, Mexico
5 ATM's and 4 TelMex phones destroyed
Subversive Front for Global Liberation

06-08-09 - Mexico State
78 TelMex phones destroyed and their van's tires flattened in 1 week
Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature

RESULTS

Abnormal Beha***vior Composite Score***
Dose-dependent increases in species-typical stereotypic actions were observed in the METH subjects …Post hoc tests of simple main effects indicated significantly higher levels of abnormal behavior during 'injection' days compared to 'no injection' days for METH subjects at Dose 5, 6 and Dose 7, 8. METH subjects also showed significantly higher levels of abnormal behavior during Dose 7, 8 compared to the other three Dose periods… This increase was significant for both 'injection' days as well as for 'no injection' days. In addition, METH subjects showed significantly higher levels of abnormal behavior compared to Controls only during Dose 7, 8. This difference was also significant for both 'injection' days as well as for 'no injection' days.

Aggression Composite Score
Levels of aggression changed across Dose periods for both Control and METH subjects…

Anxiety Composite Score
Increases in the anxiety scores were observed in the METH subjects for most Dose-Analysis periods during 'no injection' days when AMPH but not METH was present in pharmacologically active concentrations… Tests of simple main effects indicated METH subjects showed significantly lower levels of anxiety-related behavior during 'no injection' days compared to 'injection' days for Dose 1, 2, but showed significantly higher levels of anxiety during 'no injection' days compared to 'injection' days for Dose 3, 4; Dose 5, 6; and Dose 7, 8. In addition, METH subjects during 'no injection' days showed significantly higher levels of anxiety-related behavior during Dose 5, 6 and Dose 7, 8 compared to Dose 1, 2. Control subjects also showed higher levels of anxiety-related behavior during Dose 7, 8 compared to Dose 1, 2 during 'no injection' days.

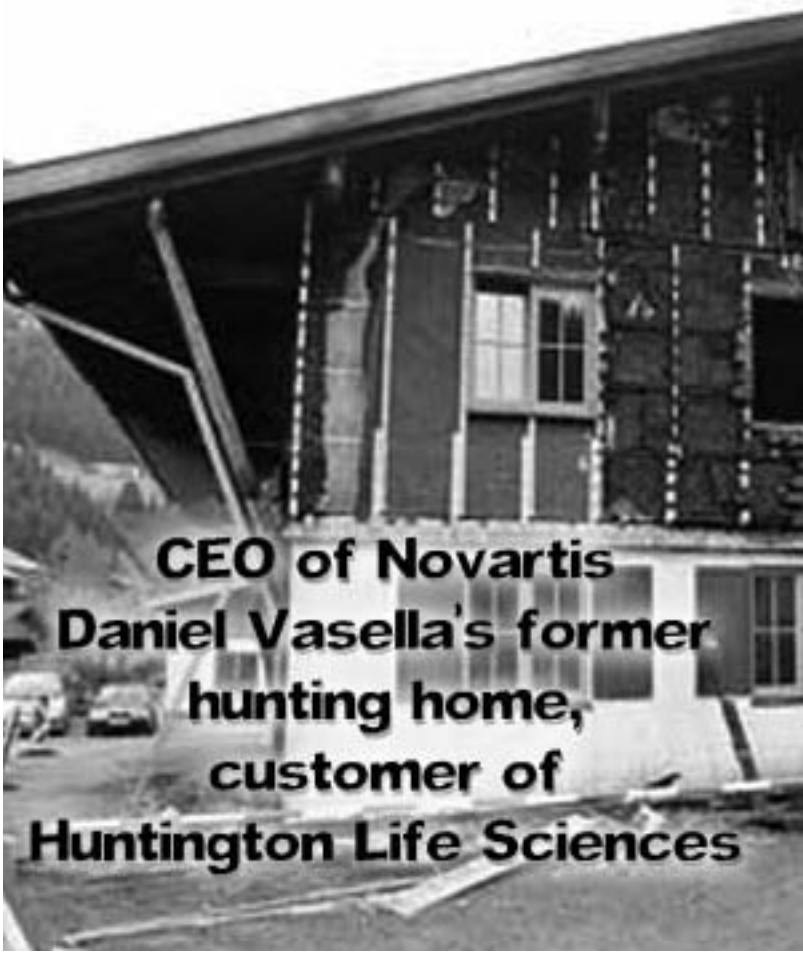
Social Behavior Composite Score
The METH subjects generally showed lower social behavior on 'injection' days, ie following METH administration…

And then she killed them and cut up their brains.

The aim of this study was to establish in socially housed vervet monkeys a profile of behavioral and brain alterations resulting from modeling an ED-METH exposure extending over 8 months. The principal observations were dose-dependent increases in abnormal and anxiety-related behaviors, activity levels, and decreases in aggression….

In conclusion, this METH administration protocol in the monkey modeled some aspects of a human daily multiple dose exposure and caused significant behavioral alterations in categories relevant to the human METH condition, eg anxiety, abnormal behavior, that were likely the result of alterations in both dopaminergic and nondopaminergic systems. Melega WP, Jorgensen MJ, Laćan G, Way BM, Pham J, Morton G, Cho AK, Fairbanks LA. Long-term methamphetamine administration in the vervet monkey models aspects of a human exposure: brain neurotoxicity and behavioral profiles. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2008.

William Melega, one of Fairbanks' coauthors has been injecting monkeys with methamphetamine since at least 1995. (Kuczenski R, Segal DS, Cho AK, Melega W. Hippocampus norepinephrine, caudate dopamine and serotonin, and behavioral responses to the stereoisomers of amphetamine and methamphetamine. Journal of Neuroscience. 1995.) Vivisectors have been injecting monkeys with methamphetamine since at least 1971



(Ellinwood EH Jr. Effect of chronic methamphetamine intoxication in Rhesus monkeys. Biological Psychiatry. 1971), but have been injecting other animals, namely, mice, rats, dogs, cats, and pigeons since the early 1950s. (Harrisson JW, Ambrus CM, Ambrus JL. Tolerance of rats toward amphetamine and methamphetamine. Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (Baltimore). 1952.)

Kathy Wadsworth, another Pro-Test founder and UCLA Associate Director-Animal Subjects Research, seems a bit like the ubiquitous Igor character in mad scientist movies — mewling, unhappy with their lot, but dedicated to keeping their master(s) supplied with victims.

Tom Holder (a friend of St. Pycroft) seems to be involved simply to call attention to himself. Although he occasionally speaks in public and presents slides, his information is nonsense taken from industry front groups' websites and regurgitated without hesitation or critical evaluation.

The two graduate students named as founding members of Pro-Test seem to be children, naïve and enamored with tenured scientists taking notice of them. I wrote to

Megan Wyeth and asked her about an article in the school newspaper, The Daily Bruin, that showcased her:

Hoisting a sign and marching with several hundred others, Megan Wyeth was not just protesting in favor of animal research. She was also trying to protect the safety of her friends.

Wyeth is one of seven founding members of Pro-Test at UCLA, a group formed to speak out against animal rights extremism…

Wyeth works with mice in her research on epilepsy… Wyeth said the public generally doesn't realize how much training researchers undergo before they are even allowed to touch an animal.

"It seems like they think we're sadistic or get pleasure out of using animals for research," she said. "We minimize the numbers we have to use. It's not my favorite part, but we have to do it."

In the three years of her main epilepsy research, Wyeth has been working with the same six mice….
"All of my animals are anesthetized when I work on them. I make sure they're out – extra double sure." … Audrey Kuo. "Scientists seek to research in peace." The Daily Bruin. April 23, 2009.

"Hum," I wondered to myself, "if she's been anesthetizing and 'work[ing] on' the same six mice for the past three years, are their small brains still functioning normally?" So I wrote to her and asked. I also asked whether she knew what Jentsch actually does.

It turns out that she killed these twelve, not six, mice three years ago and has been studying slides made from sections of their brains all this time. She also claimed to be using other mice in other experiments.

She also said that she didn't know what Jentsch does to monkeys. She marched behind him, chanting for his right to, well, it turns out she didn't have any idea what she was demanding that he ought to be allowed to do. Not knowing what one is marching and chanting for is not a good sign in a young aspiring scientist; critical well-informed decision-making would seem to be a key component in making any difficult discovery. She's a perfect fit for Pro-Test. ■

"We are members of the most destructive culture ever to exist. Our assault on the natural world, on indigenous and other cultures, on women, on children, on all of us through the possibility of nuclear suicide and other means – all these are unprecedented in their magnitude and ferocity."

—Derrick Jensen

By Jason Miller

9/23/09

Jensen's words resonate deeply with me. My allies and I are currently engaged in an intense battle with individuals who embody the destructiveness of our culture as they stubbornly insist upon assaulting a part of the natural world with a "magnitude and ferocity."

Some of the enforcers of our destructive dominant culture (the state and local officials in Johnson County Kansas) are preparing to massacre 300 graceful and innocent whitetail deer in a costly, bloody, unnecessary and insane "culling" of the herd in suburban, family-oriented Shawnee Mission Park. I am opposed to this moral abomination and intellectual idiocy with every fiber of my being. Toward that end, my allies and I are waging a sustained and formidable struggle to stop this impending slaughter.

We have provided the Johnson County Park Board with a viable, cost-effective means of managing the deer overpopulation problem that would not spill a drop of blood. As has been the case in locations around the country, state "conservation" officials—like those comprising our "beloved" Kansas Department of Wildlife—have rejected nonlethal means in favor of killing the "excess" deer with sharpshooters and bow-hunters. Politically aligned with the powerful gun and hunting lobbies (sorry to disappoint the NRA, but I'm a vegan AND an ardent proponent of the Second Amendment—they'll have to pry my guns "from my cold dead hands") and empowered by a malevolent legal system under which sentient beings, aside from humans, are considered to be property or "resources," those charged with governing wildlife, ready, aim, and fire at will. Nonhuman animal pain, suffering, and annihilation be damned. Public opinion be damned. Ostensibly civilized barbarians, like the public officials driving this deer "cull," are symptoms of the deeply rooted disease that Derrick Jensen described as the "most destructive culture ever to exist."

For the past three exhausting months, I've poured my heart and soul into our fight for the deer. With a legion of allies, I've orchestrated and helped carry out an intense, hard-hitting campaign that is still going strong. I want to thank each person who has made our tenacious defense of the deer possible. You are too numerous to name in this essay, but I appreciate your dedication and sacrifice more than words can express.

Our campaign is comprised of a diverse group, including men, women, teens, middle aged and older folks, people of different ethnicities, omnivores who simply love deer, vegetarians, and both pacifistic and militant vegans. Many of us have little in common, but we all share an intense passion for saving the deer from an unnecessary mass execution.

While grounded in a deep compassion for these particular beings, my motivations and reasons for defending the deer are also deeply rooted in my personal philosophy, ideology and core beliefs, which are far more complex and nuanced than a simplistic and syrupy "love for animals."

I initiated this campaign arguing that there was not a deer over-population problem in Shawnee Mission Park, but I have since accepted the evidence that the deer have out-stripped the carrying capacity of the park and are adversely affecting the biodiversity. So on that point, I agree with the KDW and park officials.

However, that's where our viewpoints diverge dramatically. Unlike the "conservationists," I view deer and other nonhuman animals as sentient beings, with the essential, basic right to live free of human exploitation, torture, and killing. They are not property or resources. While it is true enough, all too true unfortunately, that human intervention caused the deer overpopulation problem, and that we will need to solve the problem by further human intervention, "culling" is not the only means for us to intervene. In fact, as the moral agents who precipitated the problem involving our moral patients, we have a moral obligation to implement a solution that doesn't involve snuffing out their lives. And contrary to the intellectually dishonest and feeble objections raised by the KDW (that Anthony Marr's deer auto assembler is "illegal" because it "traps" the deer and that immunocontraceptive drugs, which have been field tested and proven to be safe and effective , are "experimental"), Anthony Marr's plan that we presented to the Johnson County Parks Board will enable us to fulfill our moral obligation.

As a vegan, I shun and eschew foods (including "meat," eggs, and dairy) and consumer products (to the extent that it's humanly possible), that are derived from the torture, exploitation, or killing of nonhuman animals. Despite the fact that most vegans (including me) choose not to retreat into the wilderness–so as to remain effective agents of change in society–and hence contribute to our culture's destructive ways to some degree, veganism is one of the simplest and most powerful ways a person can minimize their complicity in the slaughter of 50 billion nonhuman animals per annum and the consumerist rape and destruction of the Earth.

Veganism and animal liberation are deeply interwoven into my personal spirituality. My personal beliefs are somewhat akin to paganism in that they involve an eclectic form of nature worship—as separated from nature as I remain because of the tenuous relationship I hold with the dominant culture. Despite my dualistic, dissonant existence, in which I maintain a foot-hold both in the culture of resistance and within the dominant culture, the park and its nonhuman inhabitants are sacred to me. If the "cull" takes place, those who've enabled and implemented it will have desecrated my "church" and murdered some of my "deities." It is a moral outrage that our perverse and malignant social structure allows and promotes the barbaric blood-letting of innocent beings while shielding the lives of monstrous, sociopathic human beings via a legal system that primarily 'protects and serves' the rich, property, profit, and, on a selective basis, human lives.

Johnson County plans on paying Anthony DeNicola , his repugnant "research" entity called White Buffalo, and 'law enforcers' to riddle 300 defenseless deer with bullets as they come to feed; yet if an underground eco-warrior or nonhuman animal defender were to interfere with their egregious violations of Higher Laws, they would face severe consequences. Protecting defenseless sentient beings by any means necessary is no crime; it is both morally justifiable and highly laudable.

"What I call extensional self defense mirrors penal code statues in California and other states, known as the "necessity defense." A defendant can invoke this defense when he or she believes that the illegal action taken was immediately necessary to avoid immanent and great harm to someone, and the urgency and desirability of avoiding the harm clearly outweigh the wrong of breaking a law, as well as the harm that would have resulted had the action not been taken. Certainly, the necessity defense could be used to justify unethical and unwarranted acts of violence, but clearly the principles of law and ethics do not always overlap and acts of civil disobedience, sabotage, and even violence in certain cases may have a strong rationale."

–Dr. Steve Best

Our species is waging war on nonhuman animals. As Gary Yourofsky (one of the most powerful activists in the animal rights movement) has stated, "The hate that humans hold toward animals is matchless. It is impossible to overcome with compromise, or with only entreaty. It is so vicious, aseptic and bitter that a thousand peaceful Gods and Goddesses couldn't eradicate it." Virtually the same could be said about humanity's contempt for the Earth.

As an aboveground polemicist, thinker, organizer, publisher, and on-the-ground activist who's heavily invested in the struggle, I've chosen a side. And at this place, in this time, with the resources at hand and the allies I can assemble, I'm waging a battle on behalf of 300 deer in a family park that's near my home. Those gentle, majestic beings deserve far better than the fate the craven public officials and their hired thugs have in mind for them.

While in the immediate purview, my objective is to prevent the ruthless annihilation of 300 deer, hence also preserving the integrity of our community and sparing our children exposure to such a macabre slaughter, my long range goal and life's purpose are to advance the cause of total liberation, for Earth, nonhuman animals and oppressed humans.

I fully acknowledge that as a member of the human species who has not dropped out of society, I'm a part of the problem. But I've also striven tenaciously to become an even bigger part of the solution. And so I shall remain….. ■

The Merchandise Corner

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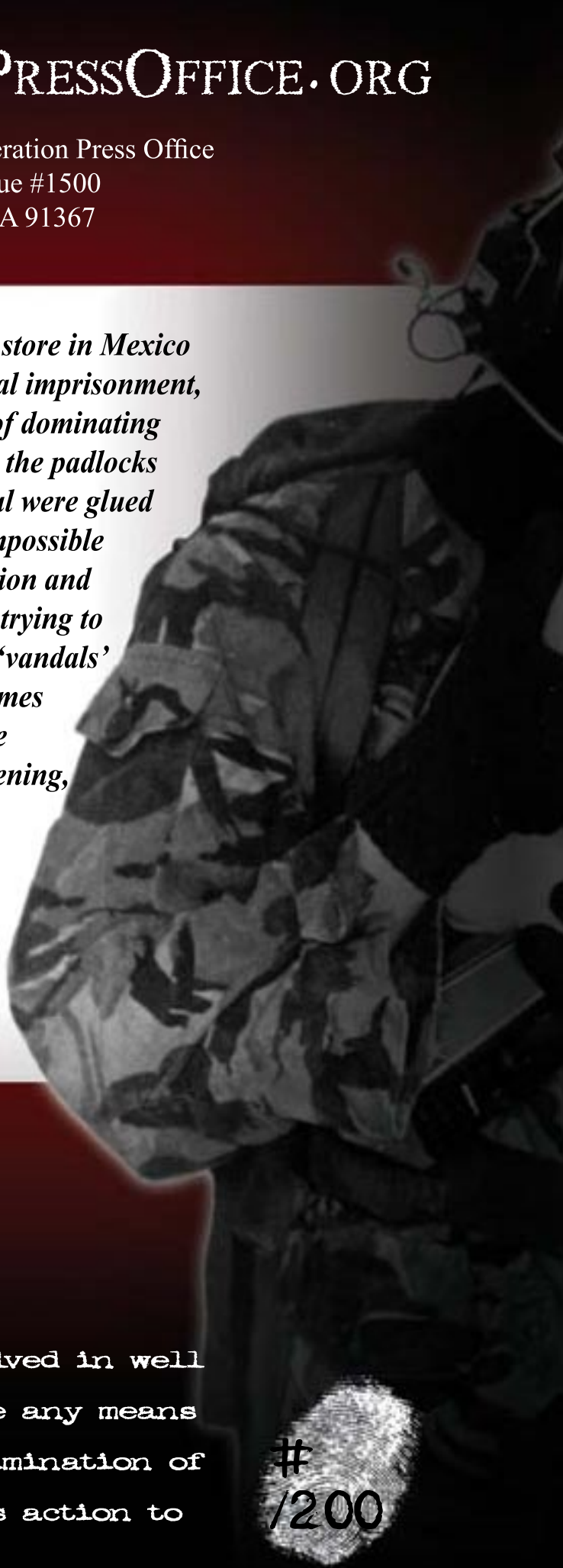
"One fine day (July 17) the owner of a pet store in Mexico State went happily to his business of animal imprisonment, intent on carrying out his speciesist work of dominating other species. As he was preparing to open the padlocks on his store, he realized that pieces of metal were glued inside the key holes and that it would be impossible to open it. An expression of anger, frustration and desperation was written on his face; while trying to open the lock he was completely enraged; 'vandals' had already done the same thing several times before. He tried to put a barrier around the padlocks so that this would not keep happening, but nothing worked.
This story was happening at the same time in a half dozen businesses of animal exploitation, acts claimed by the ALF of Mexico."



"We have to organize and become involved in well coordinated action which will involve any means necessary to bring about complete elimination of the conditions that exist ..... It takes action to get action." - Malcolm X

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